



Behold my innocence after such disgrace
 Dares show an honest and a noble Face
 Henceforth there needs no mark of me be known
 For the right Counterfeit is herein shown

Etatis aetatis proximo 22 Ianuar stilo novo vicatimo primo 1663 :

Is. Ch. sculp:

MC

THE
C A S E

OF

Madam MARY CARLETON

Lately filed

The German Princess,

Truely Stated :

With an

HISTORICAL RELATION

OF HER

Birth, Education, and Fortunes ;

IN AN

A P P E A L

TO

His Illustrious Highness

PRINCE RUPERT.

By the said MARY CARLETON.

Sic sic juvat ire sub umbra-----

London, Printed for Sam: Speed at the Rainbow in
Fleetstreet, and Hen: Marsh at the Princes Arms
in Chancery-lane. MDCLXIII.



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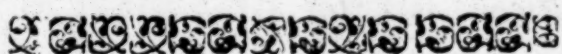
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*The most Illustrious PRINCE RUPERT,
Electoꝛ Palatine of the RHINE, &c.*



TO HIS
Most Illustrious Highness
PRINCE
RUPERT,

Count Palatine of the Rhine,

AND

Duke of Cumberland, &c.

Great Prince,



O whom should
the injured inno-
cence of a Forain
& desolate woman
address it self but to your
Noble and Merciful Pro-
tection, who with the Maje-

A

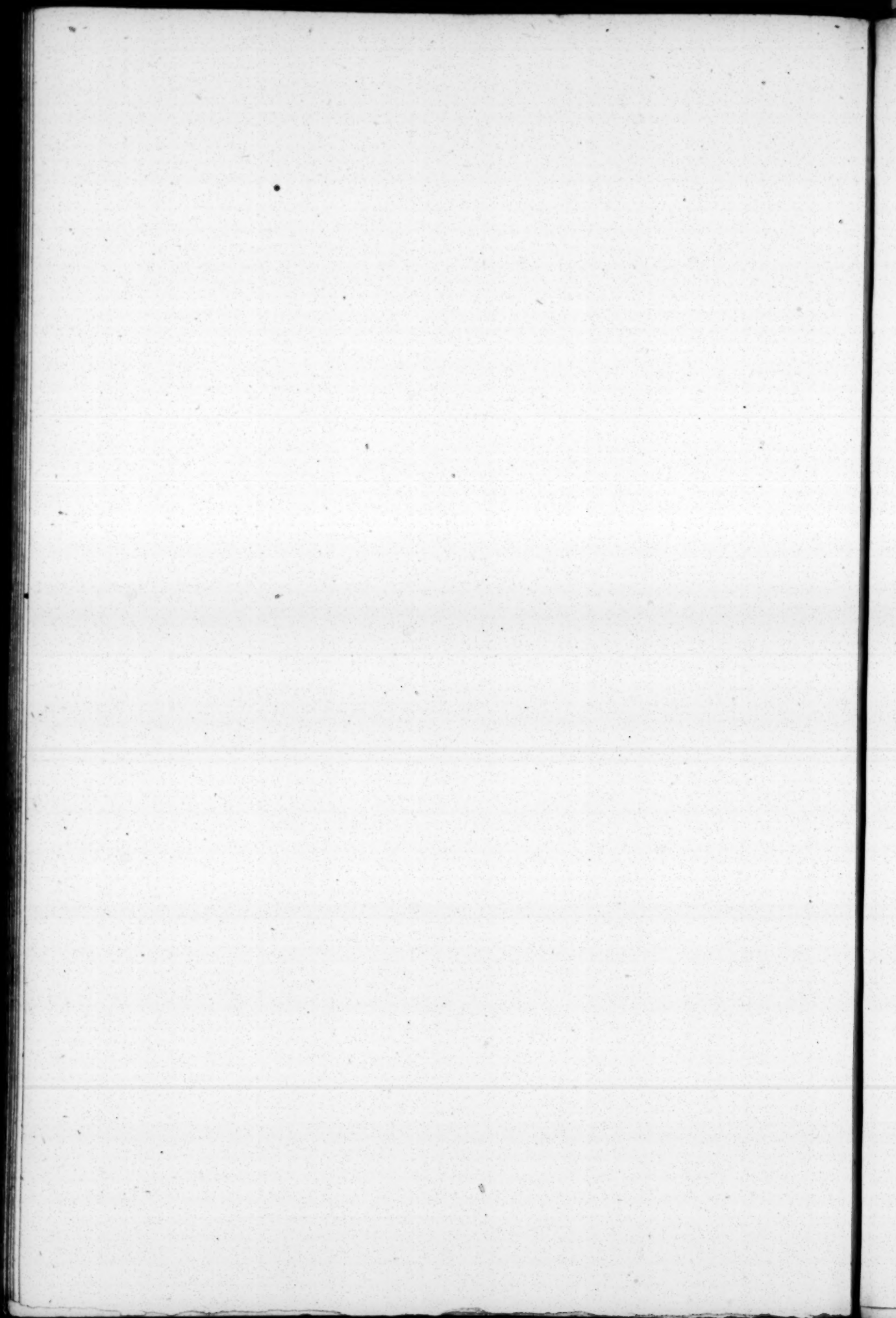
sti-

The Epistle

stical Glories of your Relation to this Crown, have most condescending compassions to the distressed and low estate of the afflicted.

For when I considered the general report of this your Generosity and Clemencie even in the greatest incitements of passion, amidst the victorious progress of your Arms; I could not but presume Your Highness would open Your ears to the Complaints of an abused Woman, in a Case wherein the Laws are altogether as silent, as in the loudest and clamorous noise of the War.

Be.



Dedictory.

Besides, the different necessity of my Cause, and the vindication of it, did inevitable put me upon your Highnesses Patronage, I am traduced and calumniated as an Impostor (and the scandal continues after all the umbrages of it are vanished) and that I am not a *German*, nor so well descended there as I have alleged, and do and will maintain: Therefore to your Highness as the sacred and fittest Sanctuarie of this truth I have betook my self; whose excellent purity I do so revere and honour, that I would not soil it with the

The Epistle

least tincture of a pretence,
or paint of falshood for a
world.

Your Highness drew your
first Princely Breath, which
hath since filled the Trump
of Fame, within the limits of
that circle of the Rhine,
where I was born: and with-
in the Confines of your pa-
ternal Dominions, my In-
fant cries were to be heard;
and therefore with all ala-
cridy I submit my cause, and
my stronger cries for Justice to
your Highness, who partakes
equallie of this and my
Countrie.

Notwithstanding I should
not

Dedictory.

not have been so bold as to
have given your Highness
this trouble, but that I have
been informed you have
been graciouslie pleased to
pity my ruines, and to ex-
press your resentment of
those incivilities I have suf-
fered: And indeed that
with the just indignation of
other Noble persons, who
are pleased to honour my
desertion and privacy with
their company, is the only
support I have against those
miseries I indure, the more
unsupportable because irre-
mediable by the Laws of this
Kingdom made against
Femes Covert.

A 3 I

The Epistle Dedicatory.

I take not upon me to dispute the equity thereof, but in all submiss obedience do cast myself and my cause at your Highnesses feet, most humbly requesting and beseeching your Grace and Favour in some extraordinary redress to be vouchsafed to

Your Highnesses most

Obedient and most De-

voted Servant ;

MARY CARLETON.

T O

Mary Carlton Cald

Æt: Suæ

38

the German Prince.





Mary Carlton.

TO THE
Noble Ladies
AND
Gentlewomen,
OF
ENGLAND:

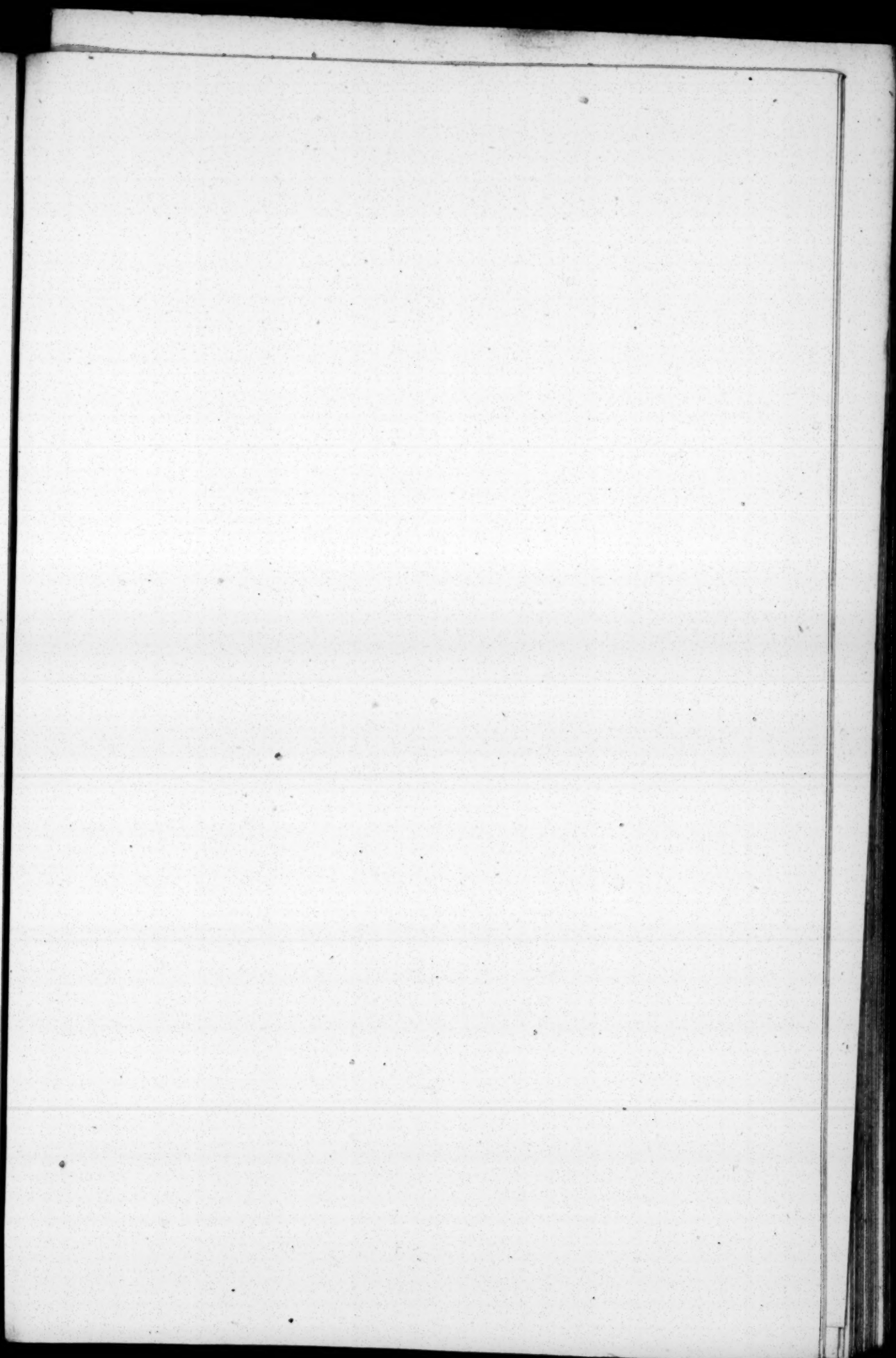
Madams,

B *E* pleased to
lay aside that
severity of
your judgement, by which
you examine and castigate
the licitness and conveni-
ence

To the Ladies.

ence of every of your actions or passages of moment, and therefore seldom run into the misgovernment of Fortune, and cast a favourable eye upon these Novels of my life, not much unlike those of Boccace, but that they are more serious and tragical.

The breach that is made in my Credit and reputation, I do feel and understand to be very wide, and
past



To the Ladies.

*past my repaying, what
ever materials of defence,
excuse, and purgation I
can bring to the scrutiny
of men; who are not sensi-
ble to what sudden chan-
ges our natures are sub-
jected, and that from ay-
ry thoughts and motions,
things of great influence,
sometimes good, sometimes
bad, have been exhibited to
the world, equal to the
most sober and firm reso-
lution,*

To the Ladies.

*lutions of the valiant and
the wise.*

*It hath been my mishap
for one among many others
to miscarry in an affayr, to
which there are more in-
trigues and perplexities of
kin and alliance, and ne-
cessary dependance, then
to any other thing in the
world, i.e. marriage: (Hy-
men is as blind as Fortune
and gives her favours by
guesse) the mistaken advan-
tages*

To the Ladies.

tages whereof, have turned to my real damage: so that when I might have bin happy in my self, I must needs transplant my content into a sterile ungrateful soil, and be miserable by another. Yet have I done nothing dishonourable to your better beloved Sex, there is nothing of leudness, baseness or meanness in the whole carriage of this noised story, nor which

I

To the Ladies:

*I will not, cannot justifie, as the
actions of a Gentlewoman; with
the account of which, from the
beginning of my life, I here pre-
sent you.*

*My Fortune not being competent
to my mind, though proportiona-
ble to any centile degree, hath
frowardly shrunk into nothing,
but I doubt not to buoy both my
honour & estate up together, when
these envious clouds are dispel-
led that obscure my brightness;
The shadows are at the longest,
and my fame shall speedily rise in
its due lustre, till then, and ever
I am,*

Ladies, your devored Hand-Maid,

MARY CARLETON.

THE



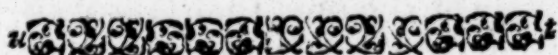
Mary Carleton.



A. Nicholls delin.

J. Basire sculp.

The German Princess *with her Suppos'd* Husband and Lawyer.

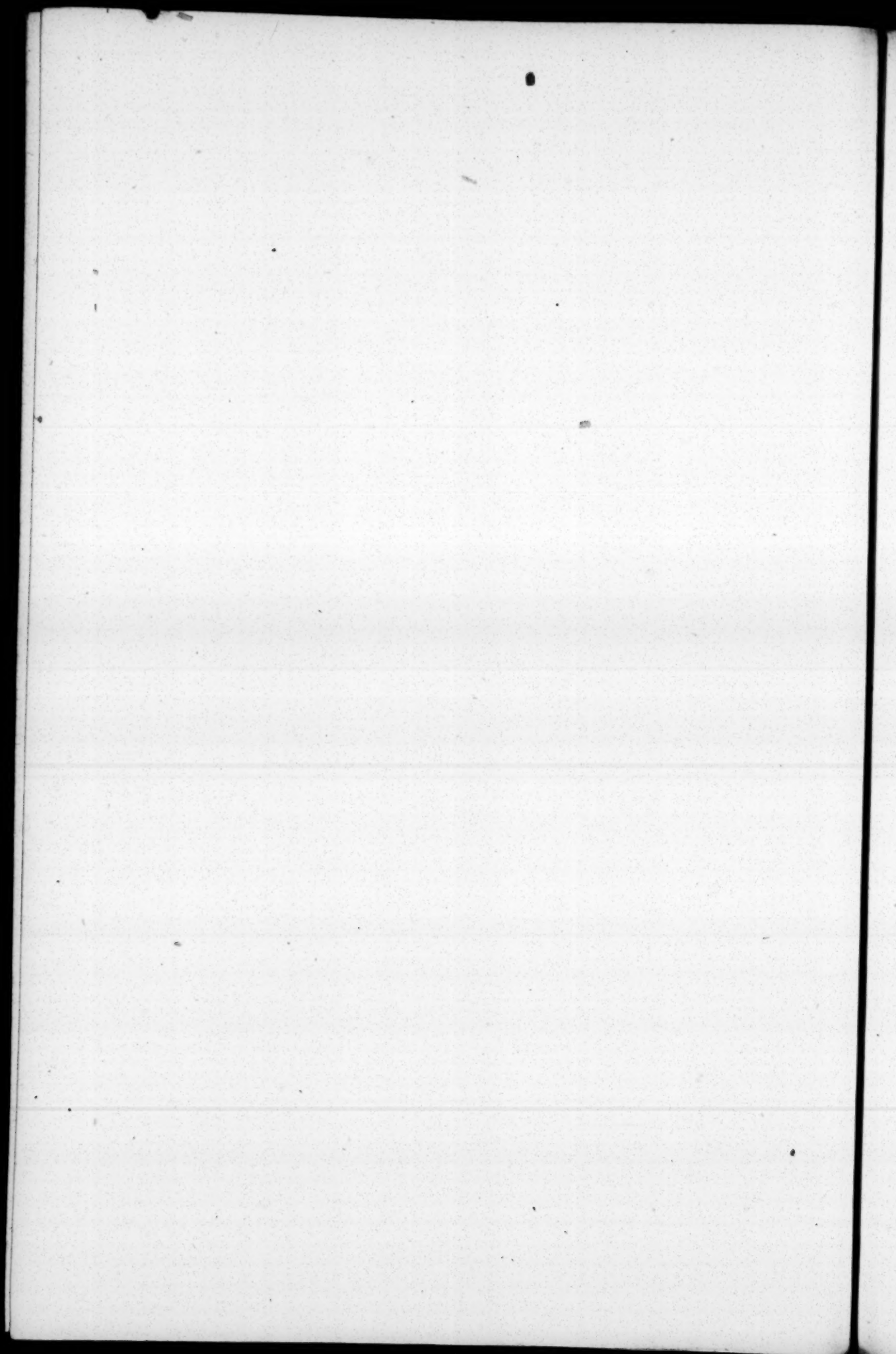


THE
CASE
 OF
 Madam *Mary Carleton*
 The Wife of
 Mr. *John Carleton*,
 Formerly stiled
 A German Princess.



Am so much the
 the more beholden
 to my Innocence
 then to my Fortune,
 that I dare more
 confidently appear to the *Vindi-*
 B *cation*

cation of the one, then (through the malign deceit and injury of my Adversaries) to the *vendication* of the other; And *ch* ' *lenge* my enemies, and the *Spoils* they have made of me, though I dare not *lay claim* to my *Friends*, my *Honour* and my *Estate*, which I shall keep concealed and inviolable from such rude and mischeivous hands as my *Person* hath been betrayed to. And yet the suspicious, noxious world doth very hardly conceive of me other then a Malefactor, and prefer my Wit and Artful Carriage to my *Honesty*, and take this untoward passage of my life for some festive and merry accident of the times, and look upon me as a notorious (nay even among the more ingenious, but as a) notable person. I



Madam Mary Carleton 3

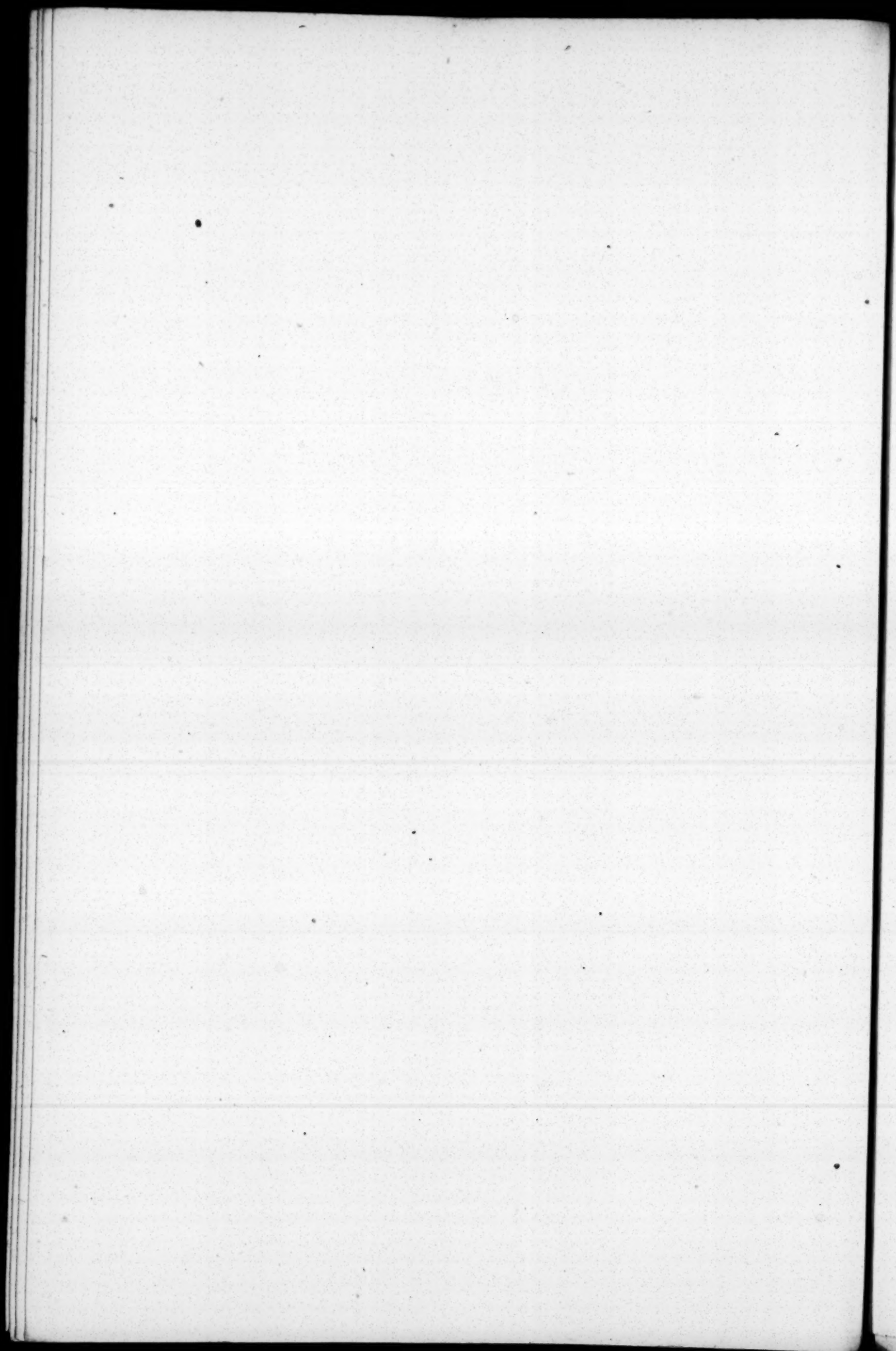
I can give no other reason for this, but the diligent and forestalling slanders of my accusers, who by lewd and most false suggestions have precluded all ways to my justification and defence; and my own unwearied patience in suffering those calumnies to pass unrefuted, further then by a legal Trial; not willing to cast any dirt upon those by way of registering those foul-mouthed and libellous scandals by personal reflections; for I concluded that time, and the justice of my Cause and the Laws of the Kingdom would clearly absolve me, and that therefore such exasperations on my part would widen that breach, which the fraudulent covetousness of some Relations had made between my Husband and my self, and

B 2

render

render it irreconcilable, when as I had resolved to redintegrate that affection, we were mutually bound to have for each other.

But since I have perceived, and have been fully satisfied and informed of their insatiable and implacable malice against me, not onely in prosecuting me with fresh Indictments after the Jury had acquitted me of the former, (though the grand Jury were so fully sensible of the Injustice and maliciousness thereof, that they would not receive any more) to say nothing also of the Witnesses brought against me, the blind and the lame (as to their tales and stories) procured by most wicked and detestable practises, (whom God forgive) but by advising my Husband after
ter



Madam Mary Carleton. 5

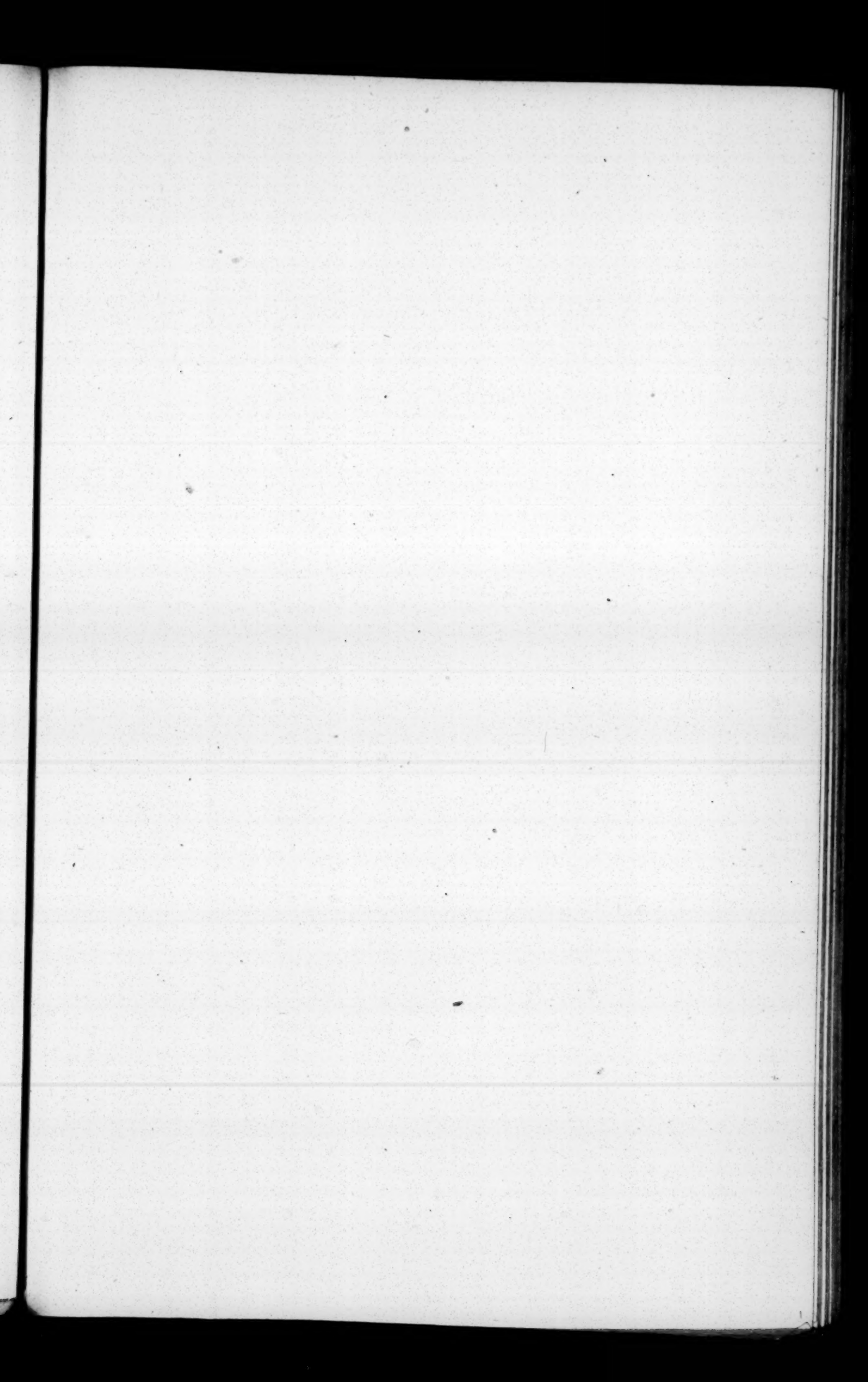
ter my acquittal to forsake me,
and renounce my bed, and so
defeating me of my Jewels and
other things of value of mine
own, and leaving and exposing
me destitute to the World, and
to the pity or scorn of people, as
my condition shall weigh with
them : These unsufferable mis-
cheifs have now at last extorted
this Narrative from me, which
I request the courteous Reader
to give Credit to, and equal-
ly and seriously consider my
Case.

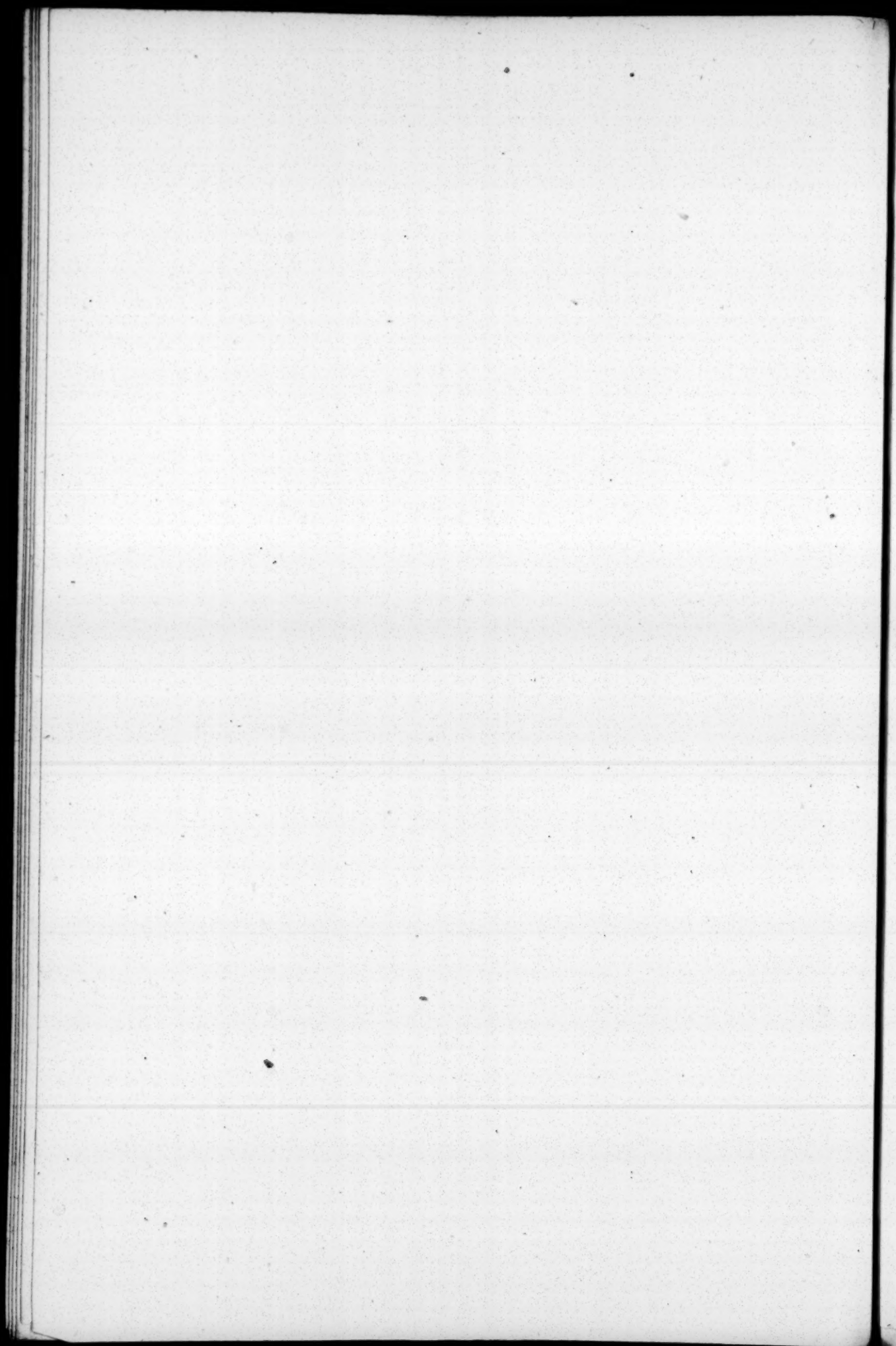
It hath already made a great
noyse in the World, sutable
to that bluster my Husbands
Friends had raised my Fortune
and Qualitie to ; but those High
winds being laid by their weep-
ing showers, I will secretly and
clearly tell the World the naked

B 3 tenth

truth of all this story, having premised a short Apology for my self, and given some account of this my (Errant-like) Adventure and Peregrination from the place of my native Country.

I was born at *Collen* in *Germany*, though incredulous people do take that for a pretence, and better concealment from any research that can be made after me; but as I have declared it before that Honourable Judicature in the *Old Bayly*, whose grave and reverend Authority, I hate to prophane and abuse with a lye; so I do again assure the World by the greatest pledges of a Christian, that I am a Native of that place, and did continue in it, or thereabouts, the most part of my life hitherto. They that know it,
know





Madam Mary Carleton. 7

know it to be one of the Mistresses and compleatest Cities in that Empire, not onely famed for the birth of very Illustrious persons of Ancient Times, and the Honour it hath received from them (as I could largely instance, especially from its Latine adject of *Agrippina*) but for that modern glory it received by the entertainment of the King of Great *Brittain*, who was most Hospitably and Cordially, and with all imaginable respect and Honour treated Here, when by vertue of *Cromwels* League with *France*, he departed that Kingdom.

I mention this at large, because hence I took up those Resolutions, which since, with so much misfortune I have put in Execution. I observed here

B 4

the

the courteous civility, and affable good temper of the English Nation, for by those Gentlemen that then attended the King I measured his Kingdom. Those were persons of such winning and obliging carriage, of so easie and familiar address, and yet of that generose and regardful demeanour, that I was hugely taken with such sweet Conditions, and being then young, by their frequent converse in the Town, which was constantly in my eares, came to such an acceptable knowledge of their manners, that I then thought of passing over to that Country, for a fuller satisfaction and delight I had promised my self among such a people.

As to my Parents, who by *Pythagoras* his fancyful Phylosophy,

Madam Mary Carleton. 9

phy, or rather envious Witchcraft, have been transmigrated into I know not what filthy and vile persons, of the most per-dite and abominable sort of men; I do desire pardon of their Ghosts, and shall sprinkle their ashes with my tears, that I have by my unadvised and ungoverned Resolution, raised them from their quiet and Honourable Graves, to be the suspicious and leud discourse of every malevolent and busie tongue. But let such know, that my Fathers name was, *Henry Van Wol-way*, A Licentiat and Doctor of the Civil Law, and Lord of *Holmstein*, a man esteemed for his services done to this City of *Colen*, in mediating their Peace and Security and Neutrality, in the *Swedish* and Ger-

man War, and for other effects of his Counsels and Endeavours to our Ecclesiastical *Prince Elector*, and the House of *Lorrain*, in all those turmoys of that Country, in the first rupture of the *Spanish* and *French War*.

I instance these remarques, because having been so long dead some nineteen years, I cannot better describe or Characterize him to strangers, though he were known in his own Country by other great and Noble actions, as well as for his long and ancient descent from an honourable Family of that name: which whosoever shall give himself the trouble of curiosity in Enquiring, may yet find preserved from the ruines of a destructive, and but just composed conflagration.

It

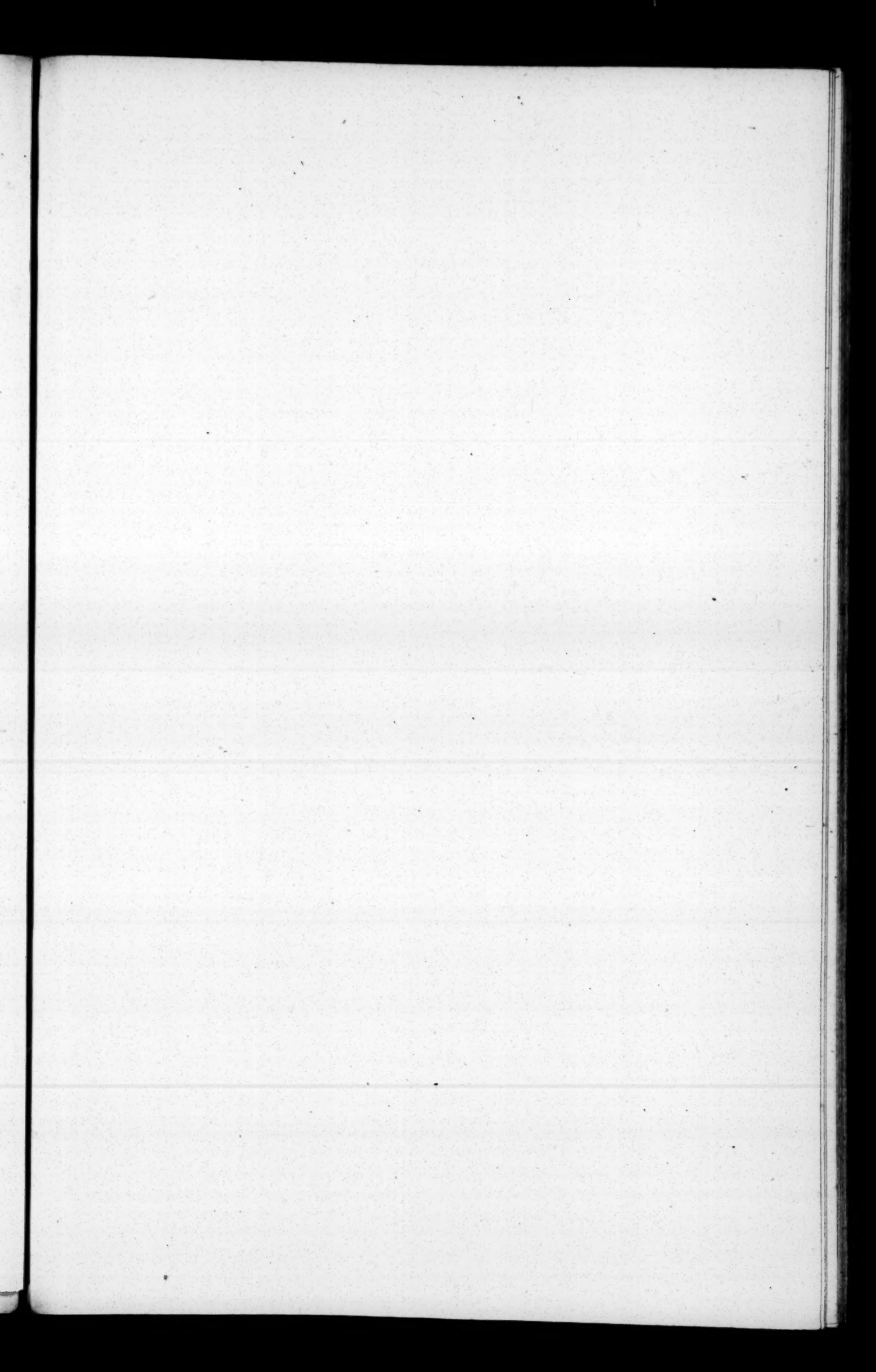
Madam Mary Carleton II

It will seem foolish and sottish flattery in me, to adorn His Monument with any more Elogy, to a strange and perhaps unbeleiving Nation, who have no faith for any thing they see not, or not have heard from plain and undeniable testimony. And if I be taken for uncharitable in this rigid imputation, let the practices of those, who have made their unreasonable incredulity, a pretence to their more barbarous cruelty, be my excuse to the World.

I shall not need therefore to particularize any more of him, for places and circumstances, and the like accidents, will be of no greater demonstration, or convincing verity, then those punctual relations of Sir *John Mandevile*, concerning things
that

that were impossible to be in humanity and nature; and I will not so much as seem to impose upon the reader, with those nearer artifices of a Lye. I am capable of doing my self right, (which I suppose will be too readily interpreted to my disadvantage) by any means, within the compass of a womans understanding, and therefore if I thought I should need more ordinary ways, I would have applyed my self thereunto.

And so I will proceed to a further Narrative of my life, having acquainted the Reader, that it pleased God to take away both my Father and Mother before I was full three years old, but my Father died last suddenly, and left me entirely possesst of his estate, without



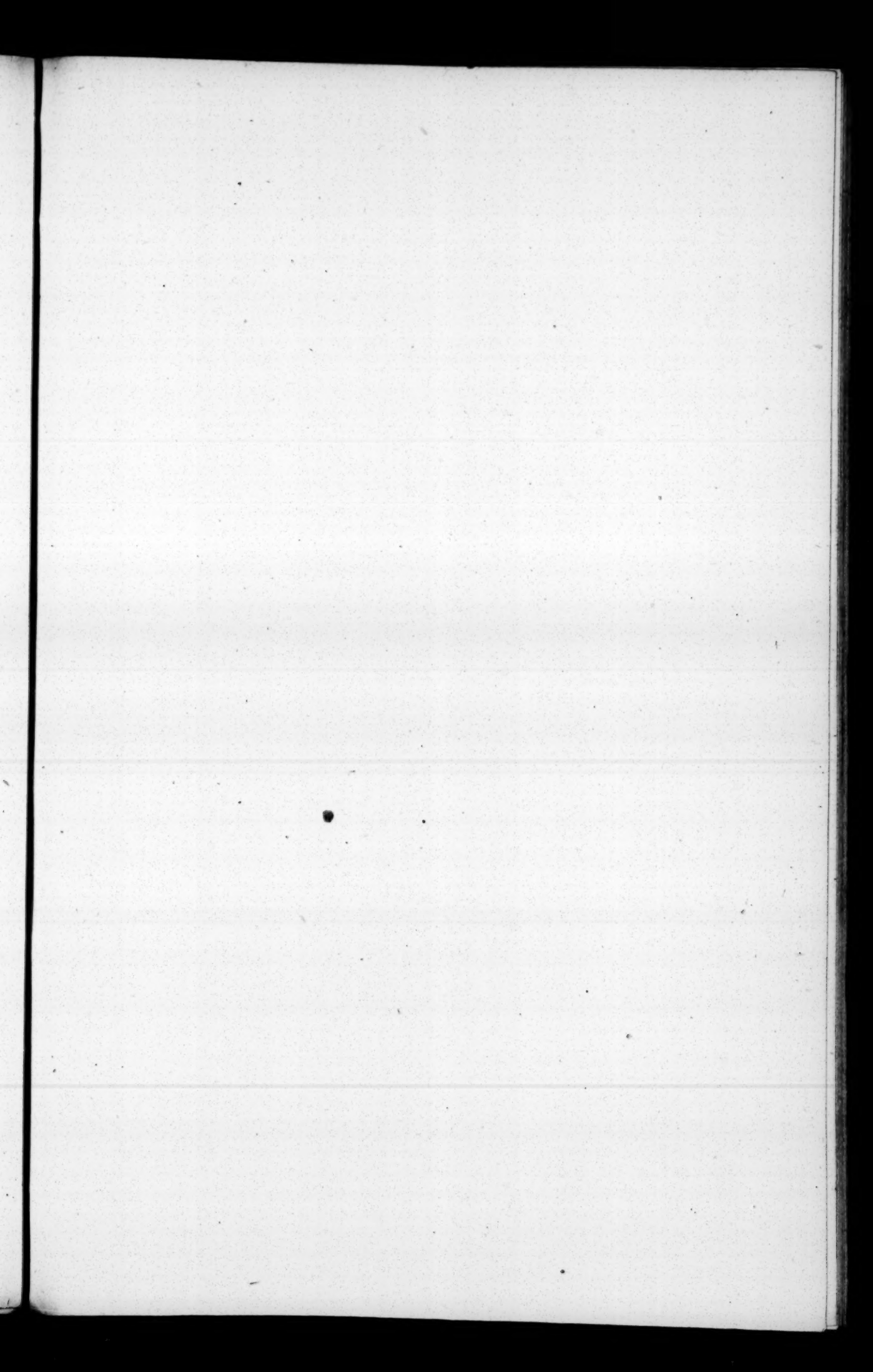
Madam Mary Carleton. 13

out any Guardian or Trustees ;
the expectation of many people
who had long designs both up-
on it and me.

Being thus an Orphan, and
destitute of a Procurator, as we
call it in our Law, the Church
as next a Kin to such estates (and
claims the right and disposal of
the Ward) secured me, and
what I had, in their hands, until
such time as I should be of age
and understanding to determine
of my self and my Fortunes,
which they hoped by so early
a matriculation, and induction
of me into the profession of the
Religious, to grasp finally into
their hands.

By them I was put into the
Monastery or Nunnery of *Sancta*
Clara, at this Infant age, and
educated in all such breeding as
was

was fit for one devoted to the service of God and his Church, wherein, if ignorance and innocence might render devotion acceptable, my young probation-years I may be confident were not offensive. But growing up to some capable years, and my active busie soul exerting it self, and biting as it were the bit of this restraint and confinement; the hours and days of this solitude and retirement, in which I was as it were buried as soon as I was born, grew most irksome and tedious to me, though I was not yet acquainted with the World. I felt some such strong impulses and natural instincts to be ranging abroad, and in action, as the first finders of *Terra Incognita*, were urged with, to the discovery of those
Regions

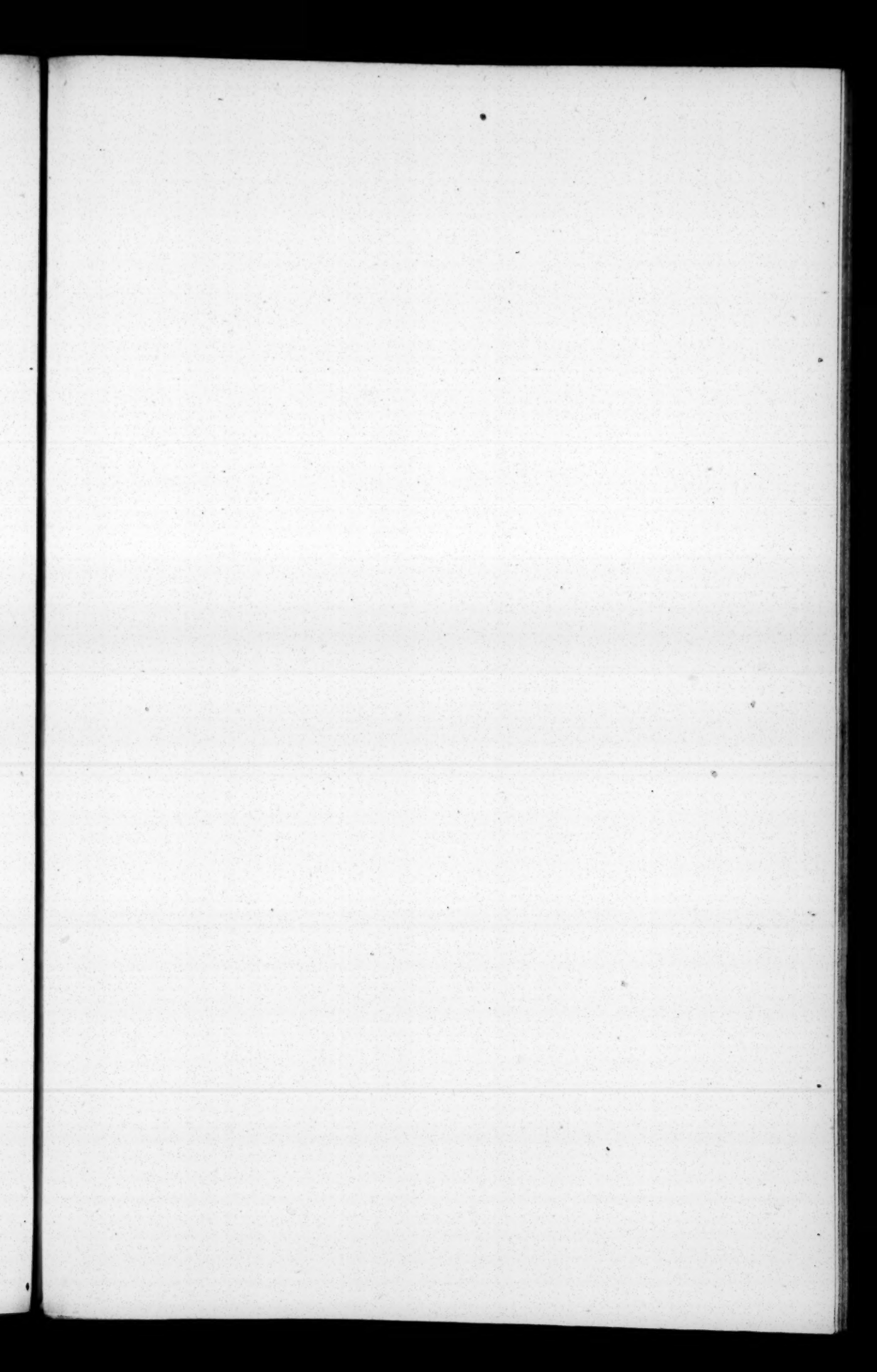


Regions, of whose Existence they had no further assurance then their own hopeful bodings and divinations.

The Discipline also, began now to aggrieve me, and the more my thoughts wandred and strayed after my roaming and strange fancy of the worlds bravery (which I began now to take notice of, from the gallant appearance of persons of quality, who frequented our Chappel) the more did the orders of the place streighten and fret me. I began to be weary of my Company, and the poverty of those *Votaries*, called in derision, as it were the *Bare-footed Clares*; and though I suffered none of these hardships, nor underwent any of those nice penances and mortifications

ons, as having no inordinacies of youth to quell and subdue, yet the customary severity of such dealing with that sweetness and tenderness of our Sex, did much grate me; and I blindly wished I were (what my inclinations prompted me to) a man, and exempt from that tedious life, which yet was so much the worse, because it was altogether passive and sedentary.

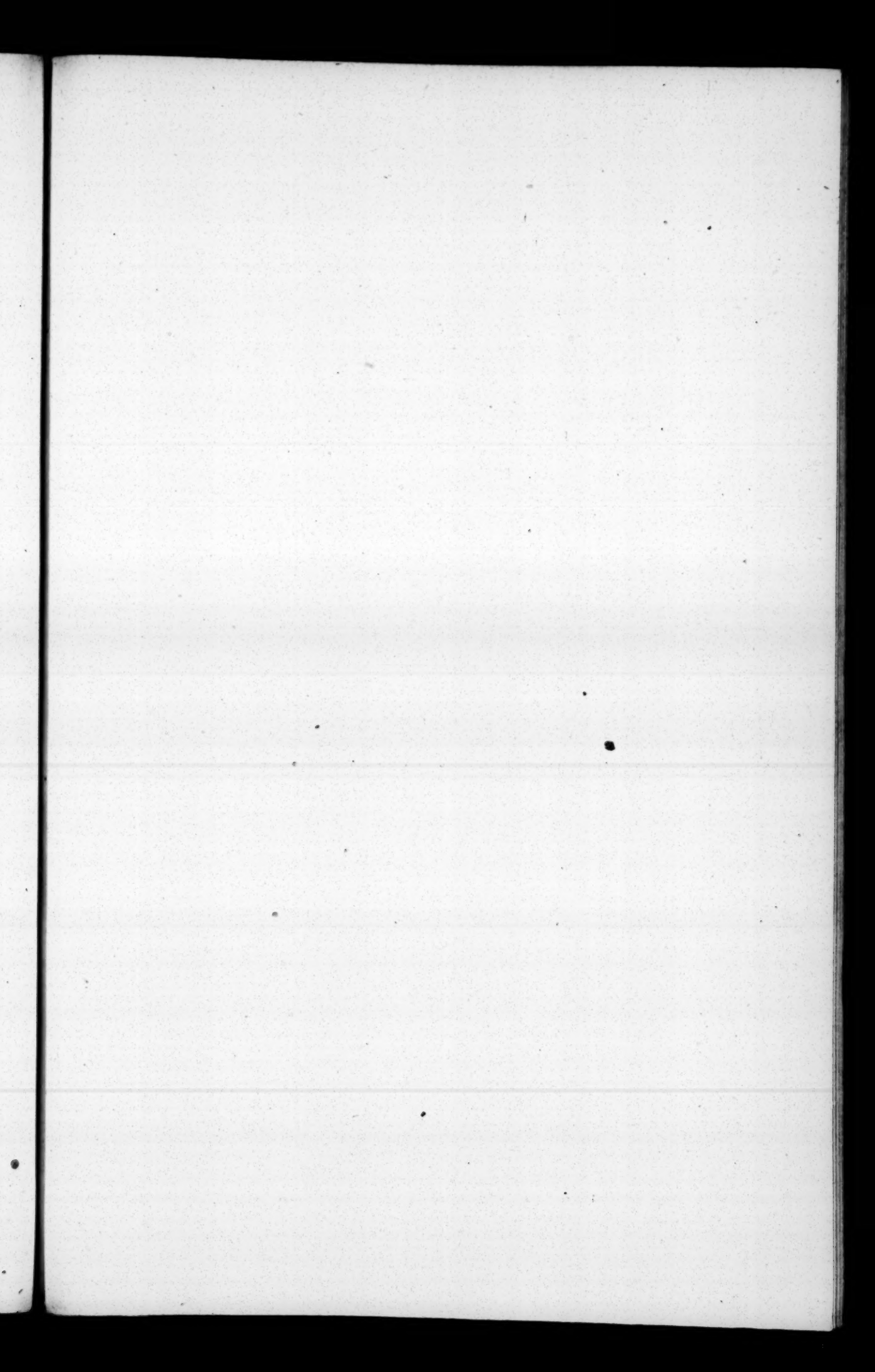
Nor could I find when more matured, but that Religion when imposed as a Task, and made an employment, was one of the greatest burdens I could endure; (though I have learned better things by practise and the troubles of the World, and could wish my self safe in such a retreat from the cares of



of the future, and the doleful thoughts of my past time, and have a zeal for my Religion, the obligations and conduct whereof I have to my sorrow so much in my late unadvised resolutions, abdicated and neglected.) I lookt upon it more as constraint, and not a voluntary act, wherein I had no manner of election; and my Libertine spirit which mistook bold Humanity, and the dictates of a generous nature, for simple and genuine adoration, confirmed me in this opinion, and finally perswaded me and prevailed with my Reason, which grew not up equall with my passion, to abandon this serene and blisful mansion, and venture upon the Worlds alluring, promising vanities.

I was arrived at that age
wherein

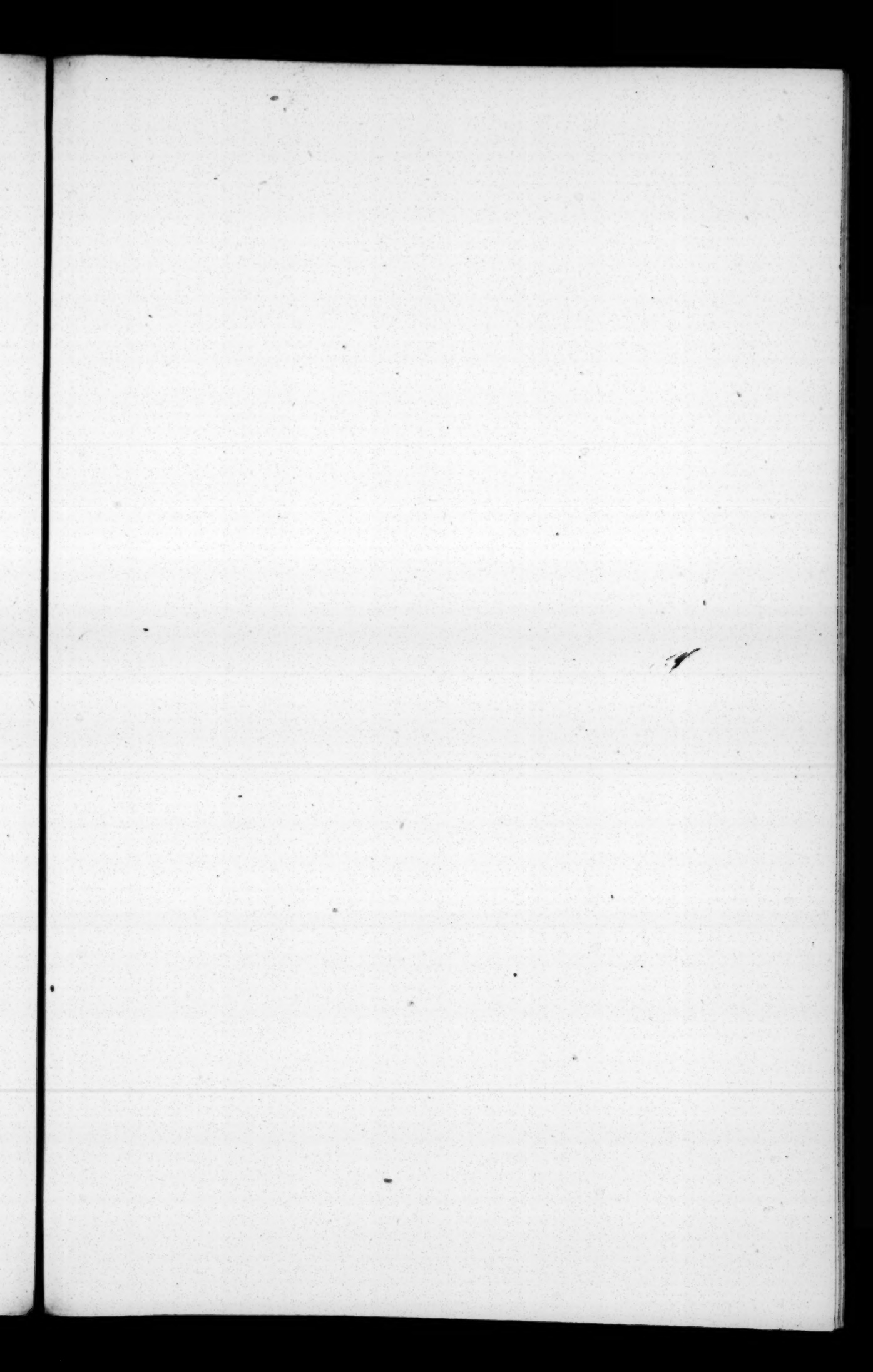
wherein I was capable of being admitted, and professing my self a Nun, and to take upon me the Vows of the Order of perpetual Virginity, and the like requisites of that Monastical life, and therefore the Fathers and Confessors willing to make me a Profelyte, were very urgent that I would take the Habit and devote my self to a religious life, setting before me the many examples of some excellent Ladies and Gentlewomen then in the Cloyster (though it be one of the poorest Convents of all) who had great and noble friends, and great Estates (some of them) and had notwithstanding with all readiness of mind separated and estranged themselves from all worldly things, and consecrated themselves to
God.



God. But my resolutions of forsaking that melancholy and silent abode, were so far advanced, and so obstinated in me to the prosecution of my masculine conceptions that I obtained my discharge at the same time, as I have partly hinted before, that his Majesty was in *Colen*, whom, with the rest of the desirous world I longed to see: accompanied therefore with my maid who had attended me in the religious house, and a man-servant who was my Steward or Bayliff abroad, and had prepared all things for my secular estate, I went to his Palace, were to pass other rencounters, I met with a civil person, one Mrs. *Margaret Hammond*, the Daughter of Sir *Richard Hammond*, living somewhere then in the
North

North of *England*, a very accomplished woman, who for her Religion had left *England*, intending to have betaken her self to the English Nunnery at *Louvain*; but some difficulties happening therein, she had journeyed up hither upon the same account, and perceiving me a stranger, did me the civility with her Countrymen, as to procure me the satisfactory view of the King and his Court, which could do no less then oblige me to invite her home, and to desire her while she staid at *Colen* to make use of my house, and what entertainment she found.

She was pleased to accept of this offer, and hereupon my curiosity having attained some part of its wish, we began to be



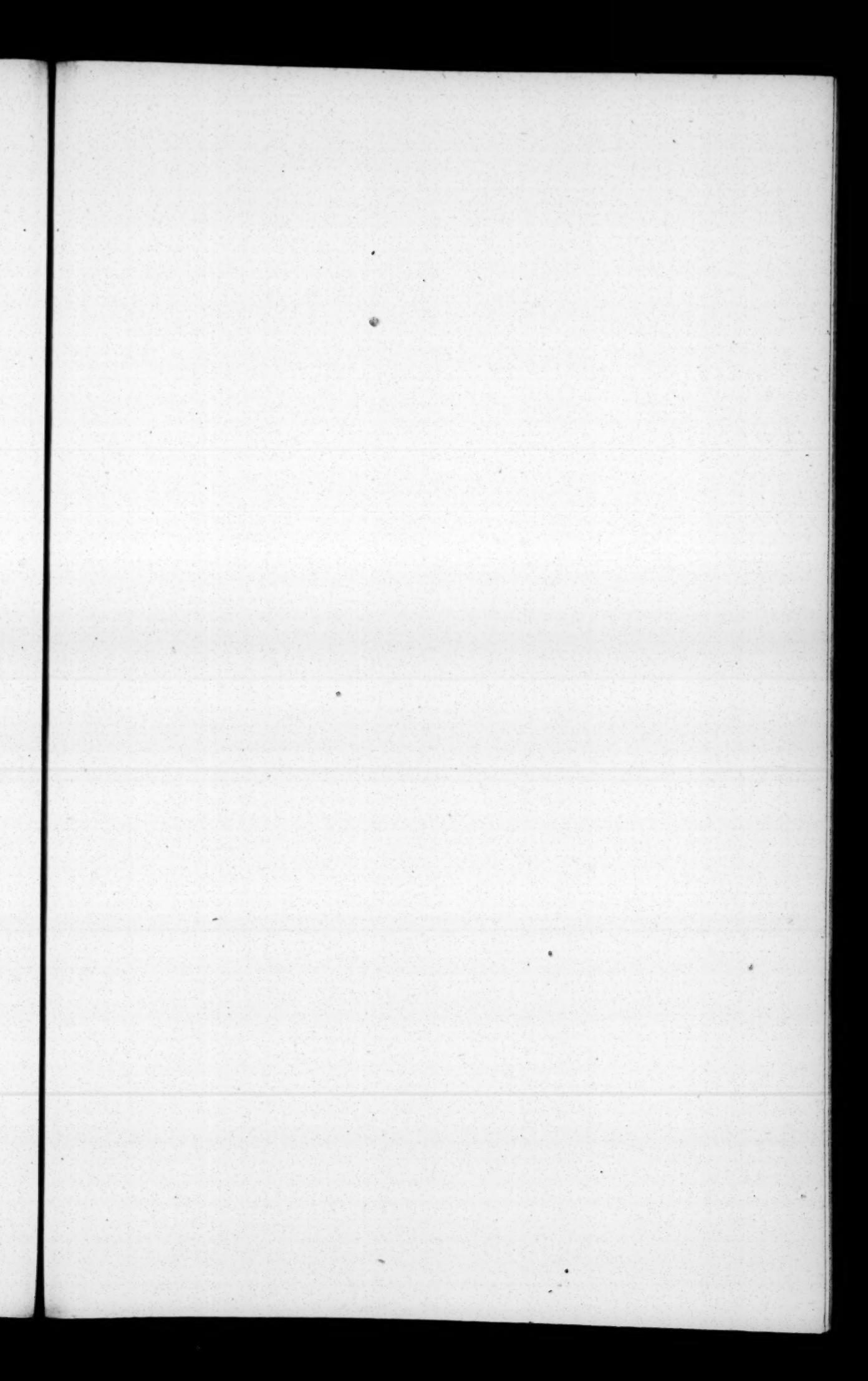
Madam Mary Carleton 21

be familiar, and I for my part to enquire into her condition, the reason of her travail, and the news of the world, of all which she gave me so delightful an account, insinuating the necessity of her condition, with the perfection of her Endowments; that I told her if she could think it answerable to her content, to stay with me, and be my Governess, she should plentifully partake of my fortunes.

We agreed: but not to weary the Reader with those Instructions and fundamentals of Education she laid, as she was a rare and absolute Mistress of all those Arts, it will be sufficient to declare, that seeing so much vertue in her, my greediness of communicating with it more
freely

freely and clearly, put me upon giving her the trouble of teaching me the English tongue, the lockt repository of so many Excellencies.

This by a fond and most pleasing diligence, I pretty well attained in a years time, having my Governess always in my company, whither abroad, as I used to ride some miles, by Coach, or else pass in a Pleasure-boat in the Summer, to acquaint my self first with my own Country; the tenderness of my years, offering no man the occasion or thoughts of Love or Marriage, by which means I passed free and unobserved, and then returned again to my Country retirement neer the City.



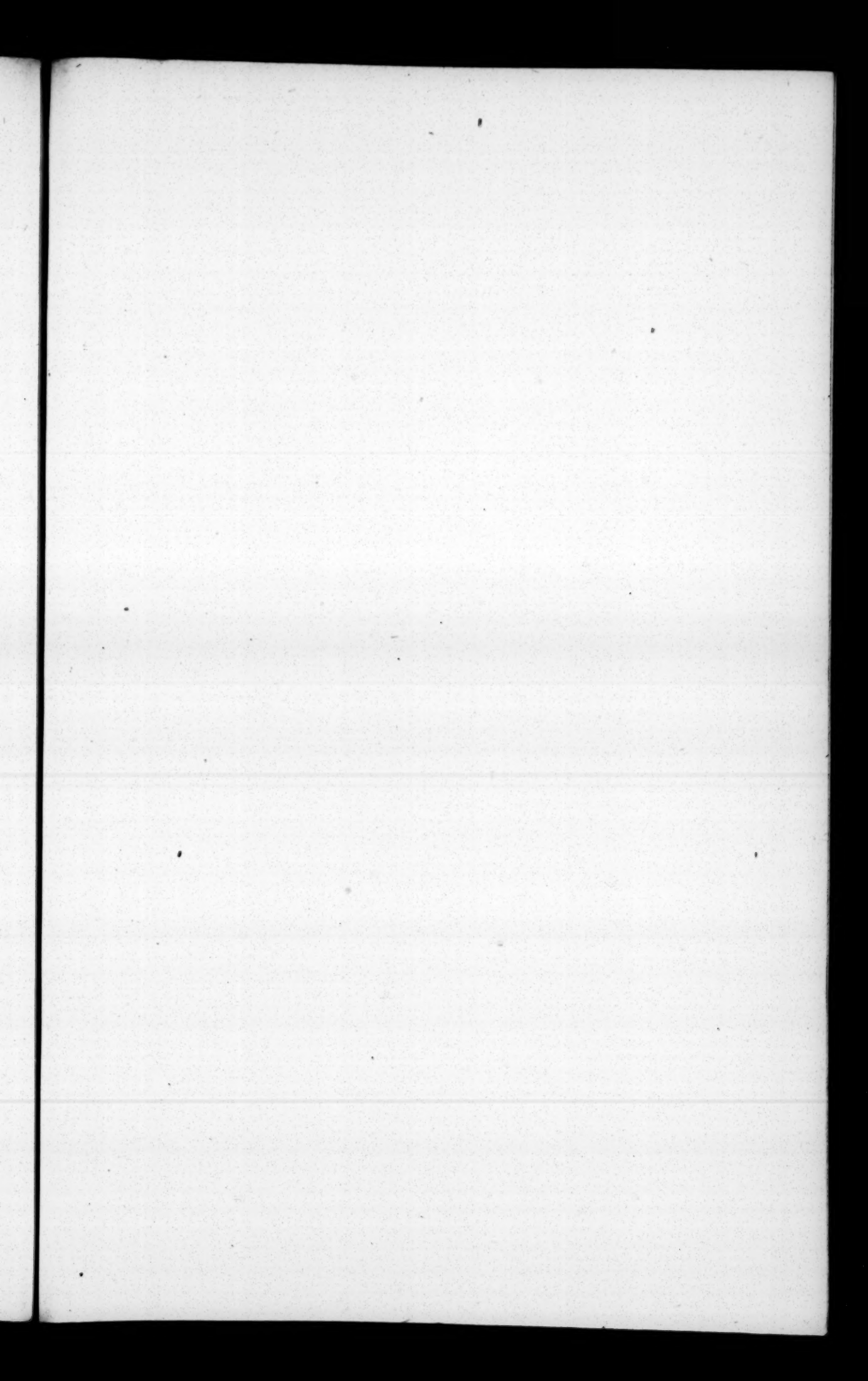
Madam Mary Carleton. 23

I now addicted my self to the reading of History, and then to take off the gravity and seriousness of that study, to more facile pastimes of literature; Romances, and other Heroical Adblandiments, which being written for the most and best part in *French*, I made that my next business, though of lesser difficulty, to gain a knowledge in that Tongue, which being counterminous to ours, and spoke promiscuously in the adjacent provinces of the *Walloon* Country, rendred it self at my devotion.

The felicity of these two, put me upon a desire of attacking the rest of the European Languages, wherein without adwantage, and as many can testify, I have more then a Smattering,
and

and here was lately an *Italian* (as I have since been told upon discourse and some wonder of my readiness in them) who was one of my Masters ; and who might have justified the truth of this and the rest of my story ; his name was *Giacomo Della Riva*, well known to many Gentlemen in this Town.

In those and the like Studies, and other befitting Exercises of my sex, I past away the age of nineteen years, when I thought it high time to put all this Speculation and Theory into practice, and being furnished with such a fraught, and store of all Forraign necessities, to lanch into the World, and see what returns I could make of this stock, but in the interim of such meditations, an unhappy



Madam Mary Carleton. 25

happy accident, (at my being at the *spaw* the last Summer, to drink those medicinal waters) discovered me, and invited two strange Gentlemen, which that place always is furnished with, to enquire further what I was: who having obtained my Country, and some inckling of my quality, made claym to be my servants. I could not in that place, the Mart of good manners, and where there is no nicety of converse, but all persons use their frankest liberty of visit and discourse, refuse their Addresses, but seeing both of them so importunate, and both so disparately and unsociably qualified for my choyce or approbation, I privately withdrew home, but could not so be rid of my odd payre of Gallants, who

C

quick-

quickly haunted me and my House.

I was thus of a sudden encompassed with two evils, of so indifferent a choyce, that I could not tell which was worse: one was an old Gentleman that had fair demeanour about *Leige* or *Luyck* not many miles distant from *Colen*, a man of serious gravity and venerable aspect for his gray hairs, but disfigured with some scars his youthful luxury had given him, which were repayed and supplemented by Art, but so that he plainly spoke his infirmity through the ruined Arches of his voyce. He accosted me the rude military way, for he had been a *Soldado*, and had caught as he said, that rotten hoarse cold, and snuffing in the Trenches of *Breda*, in the



German Princess.

t *Madam* Mary Carleton 27

he Brigade of Count *Henry o Nassau* in *Spinolas* Army, and had afterwards served Moun-
sieur *Tilly* against the King of *Sweden*, whom he had seen fall
at *Lutzen*, and therefore by
no means must be said no, or
denyed his suit, since he had
never known what a repulse
meant in his life.

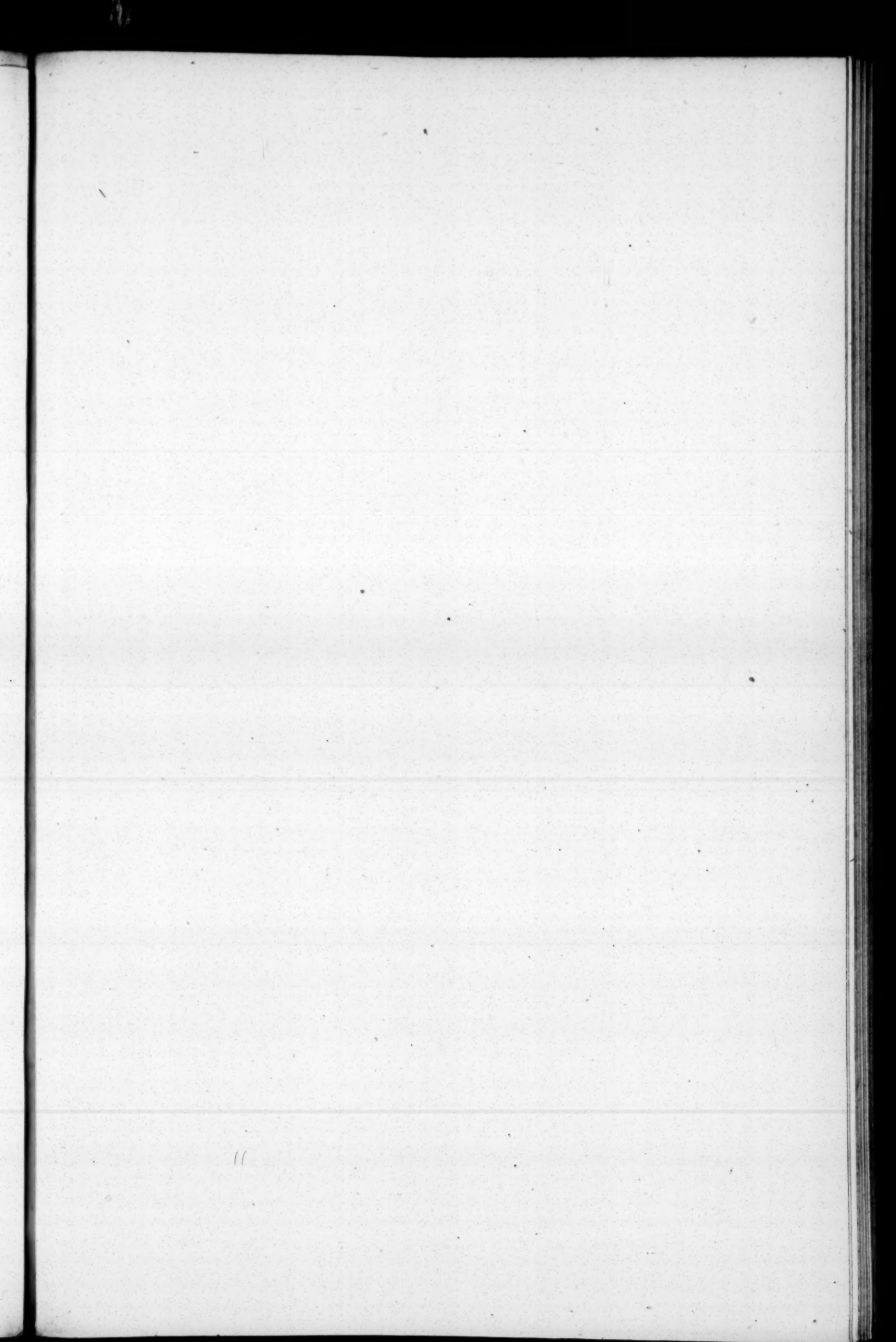
The other was a young and
pale Student in the Mathema-
ticks, Chymistry, and Magick,
like a fellow here that pretends
to be Secretary to God and Na-
ture, , and had exhausted a
plentiful estate, and was like to
be a second *Dr. Faustus*, and
like my Lord, threatned either
a contract with me, or with the
Devil: for having lost his Pro-
jection of the Philosophers
Stone, and decocted all his

C 2

money

money and estate, his magical Glafs shewed him me, who should by my fortune make him up again. In short, the one said he would storm and force me, and the other would make me yeild or else he would set *Archimedes* his unexperimented Engine at work, to remove me with him into some unknown World, to which he added the efficacy of his Spels and Conjurations.

I had by my Servants and some distant friends account of such a design as carrying me away, and forcing my consent by the Gouty Cavalier, who had some Castellanes and Governours in *Alsatia* his friends, and there was no less danger from my Magical Sweet-heart, but the open violence of the one, and the



Madam Mary Carleton. 29

the secret mines of the other were in prudence to be prevented by my absence, which I now concluded on by my self.

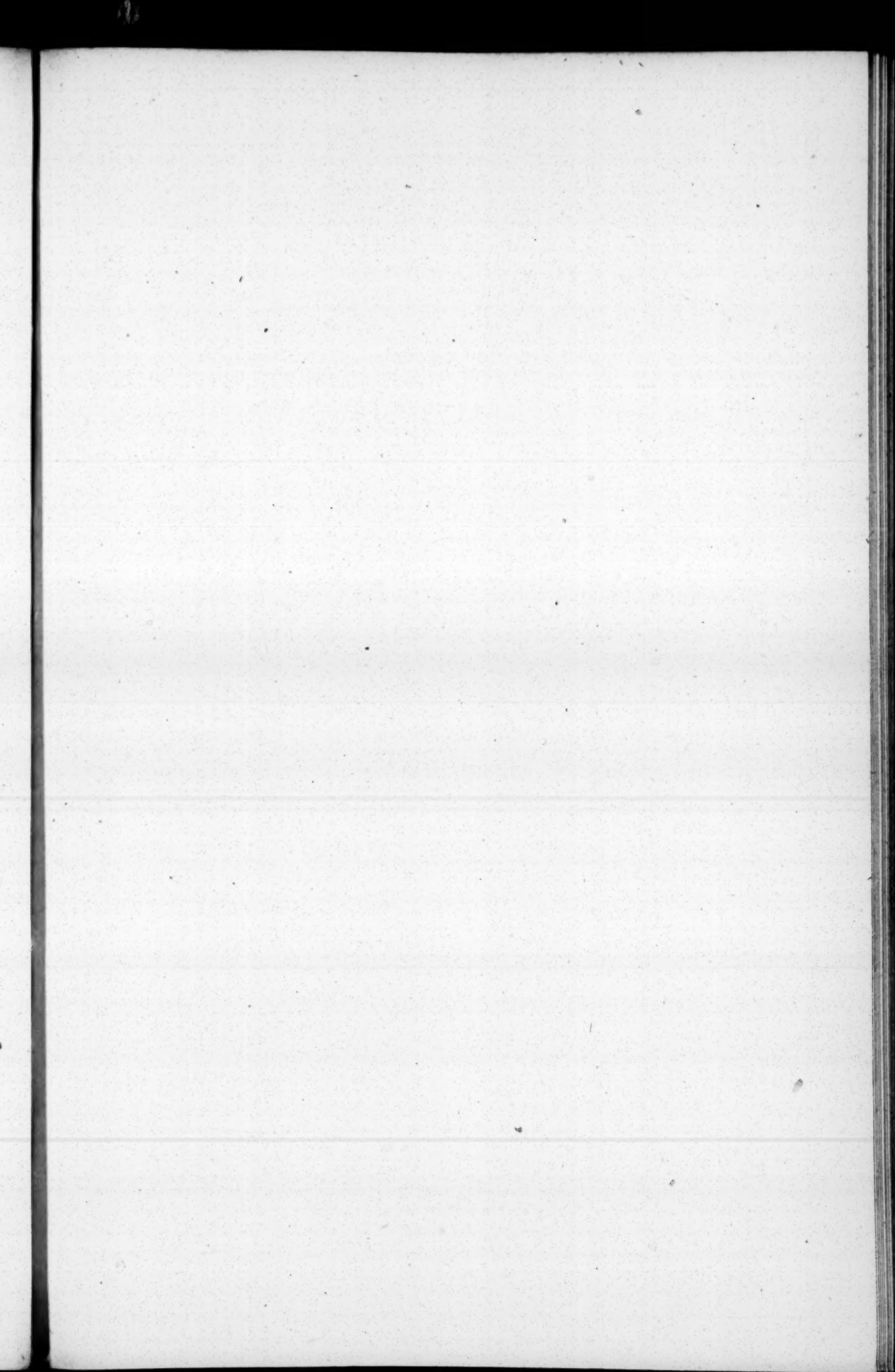
I shall not be obliged to give you any further account of my parentage or condion, for by such means my disaster here, may reach the ears of some Friends and Acquaintance, from whose knowledge my purpose is yet to estrange my self, (and to general enquiries *Collen* is too spacious and populous to afford any discovery) It will suffice, that I was liberally and honourably educated, and such principles laid, that I wonder at the superstructure of my fortune. I knew not what belonged to vulgar and Plebeian customes or conditions, and they that idly tax

C 3

my

my discourses and behaviour with mimick pedantry, know not the generous emanations of a right born soul. And so, that which probably makes me obnoxious to the censures of the multitude, as it hath to the hatred of my new Relations, is the low spiritedness, and pityful ignorance of such Mechanick and base people.

I would not be thought to boast of any accomplishments, which some persons (who favour my distressed estate, and they are of honour also) do please to acknowledge in me, all the use I can make of them, shall serve onely for an Argument against that vile and impertinent falshood, that I am of a most fordid and base extraction in this Kingdom, no
bet.



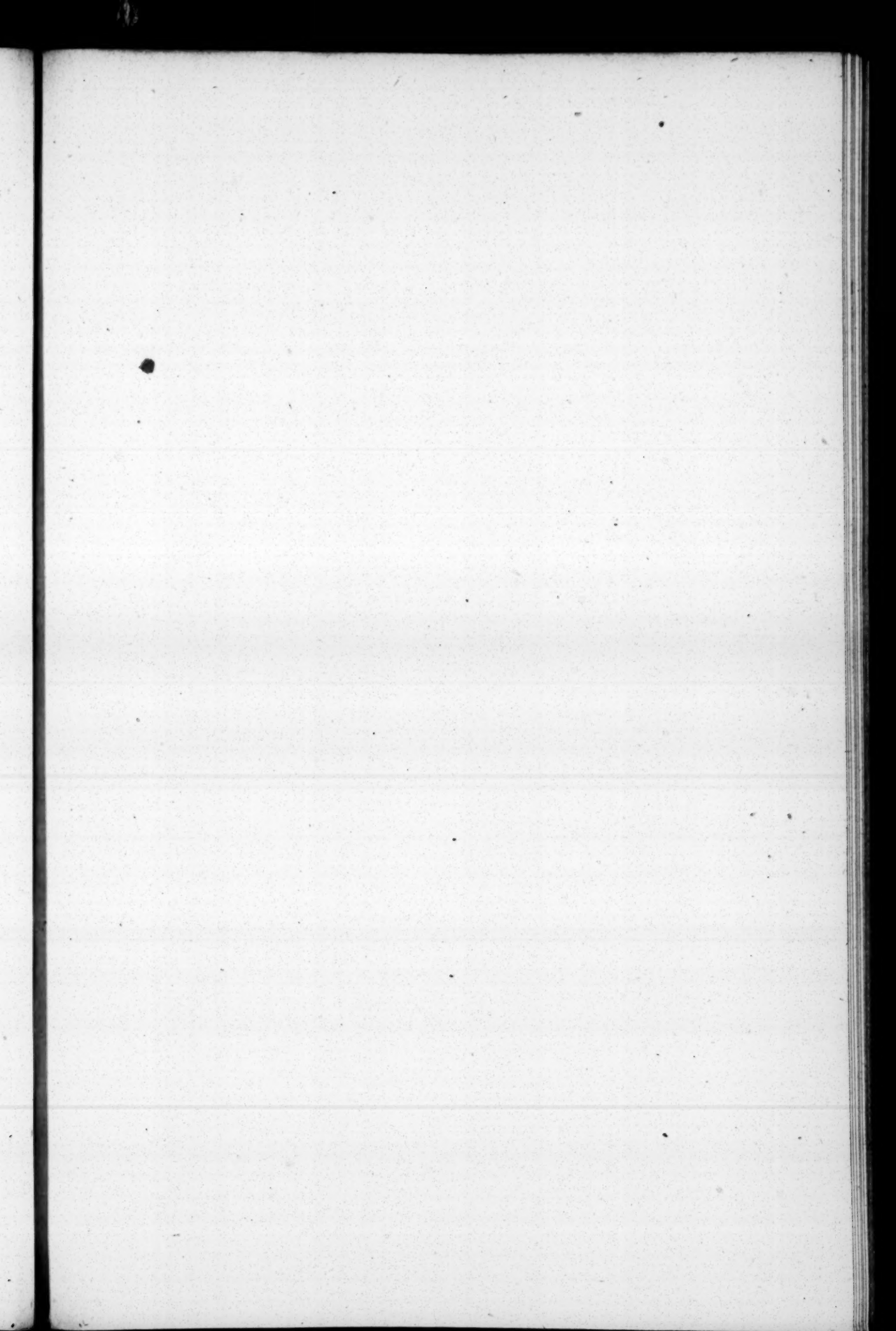
Madam Mary Carleton. 31

better then the Daughter of a
Fidler at *Canterbury*.

That Blasphemous lye was first
broached in an Anonymous Li-
bel, Entituled the *Lawyers*
Clark trappanned by the crafty
Whore of Canterbury, but at
whose instigation I could never
tell, nor did I make enquiry,
but at last spontaneously the Ro-
guery discovered it self at my
being in custody neer *Newgate*,
where I understood the Devil
and necessity with the Writer,
and undertaker, were as instru-
mental as the Devil and Co-
vetousness, in the Occasioner of
that report; but that fellow is
of so leud and miserable an in-
famy, for such defamatory
Pamphlets, that his name will
poyson the eyes of the Reader,
and fester even my charity in

forgiving him, to proceed.

The time of my deliberated departure being come, and other intervening accidents having confirmed me to the pursuance of that journey, some pece-meal rumours whereof have been scattered up and down, not far distant from the truth, namely Constraint and awe of an unliked and unsuitable match, which the freedom of my soul most highly abominated and resented) I privately by night withdrew from my Governess, and by the way of *Utrecht*, where I stayed a while incognito, thence passed to *Amsterdam*, and so to *Rotterdam*, I came to the *Brill*, and there took Shipping for *England*, the *Elyzium* of my wishes and expectations being
in



Madam Mary Carleton. 33

in hope to find it a Land of Angels, but I perceive it now to be, as to me, a place of Torments.

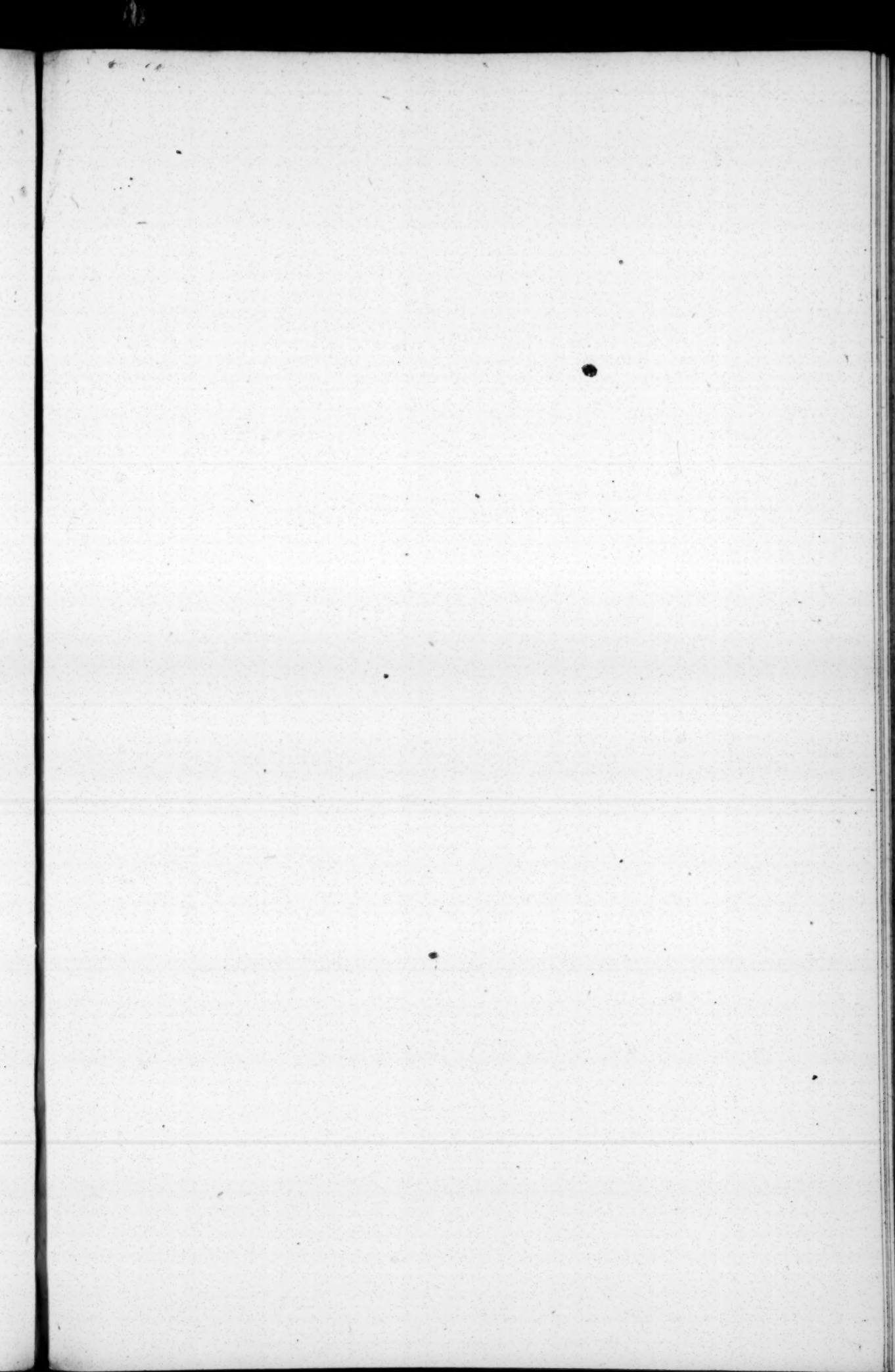
I am not single, or the first woman, that hath put her self upon such hazards, or pilgrimages, the stories of all times abound with such Examples, enough to make up a volume. I might as well have given lustre to a Romance as any any any of those supposed *Heroine's*: and since it is the method of those peices, and the Art of that way of writing to perplex and intricate the commencement and progress of such adventures, with unexpected and various difficulties and troubles, and at last bring them to the long desired fruition of their dear bought content, I am

C 5

not

not altogether out of heart, but that Providence may have some tender and more courteous consideration of me ; for I protest I know not what crime, offence or demerit of mine hath rendered her so averse and intractable as she hath proved to my designs.

Nor do the Modern and very late Times want Examples of the like adventures. I could mention a Princess, and great Personage out of the North, who not long since came into my Country, and hath passed two or three times between *Italy and France*, and keeps her design yet undiscovered, and is the onely Lady Errant in the World. I could mention another of a far worse consequence in this Country, a *She-General*,
who



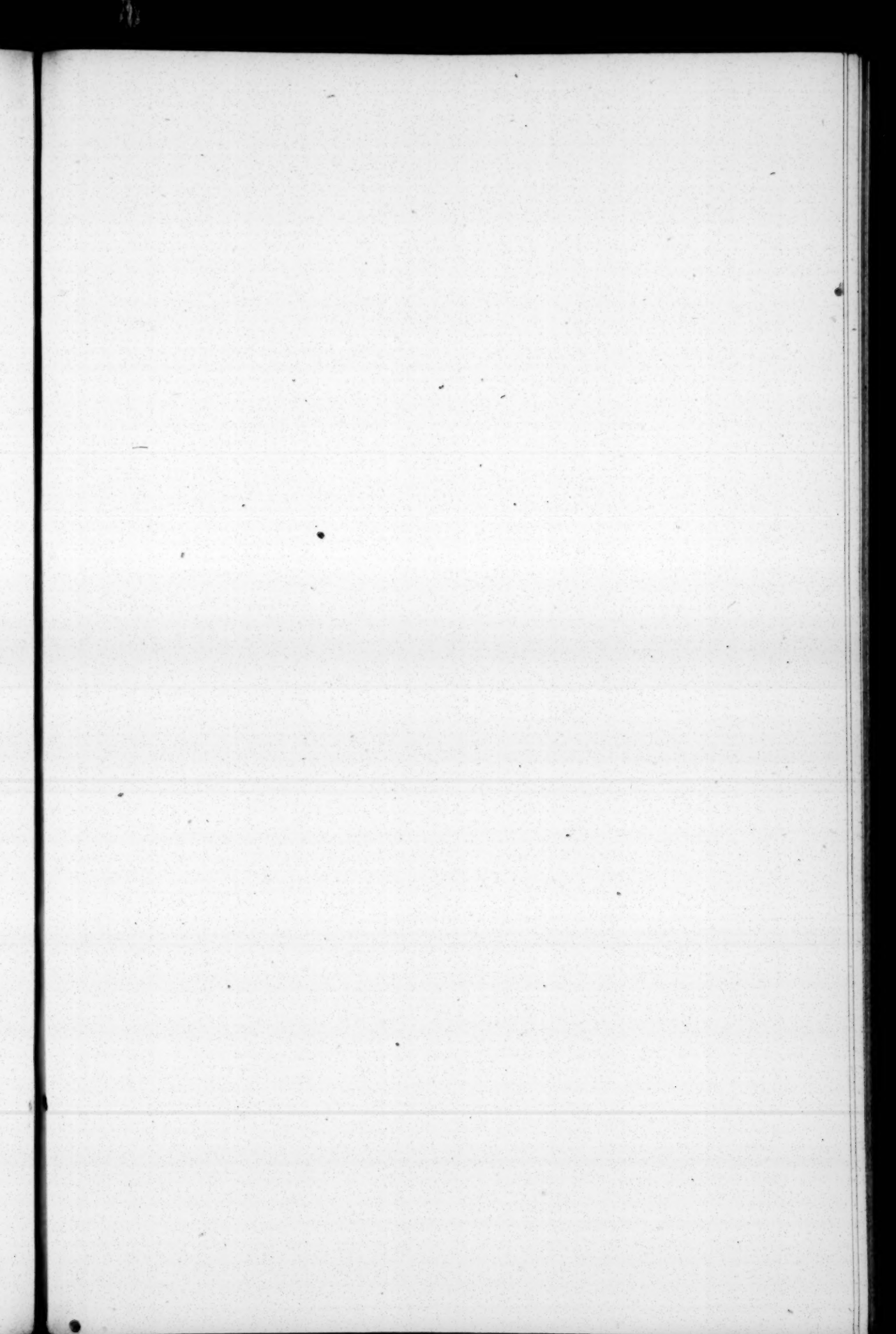
Madam Mary Carleton 35

who followed the Camp to the other World in *America*, &c. and was the occasion of the loss of the designe. Mine compared with those are meer puny stories, and inconsiderable, I neither concerned my travail in negotiating peace, or carrying war, but was meerly my own free Agent.

Nor can I be blamed for this course, for besides the necessity and enforcements of forsaking my Country, without running into a more unsupportable condition of Marriage then this I am now in, (for my patience and suffering, and Continence I have, I trust in my own power, and shall endeavour to keep them undisturbed and uncorrupted, what ever temptations or occasions, by reason of this un-

unjust separation, now are, or shall be put upon me hereafter; but my life is not in my disposal or preservation, which I had certainly endangered at home, if I had been bedded to him whom my heart abhorred:) and besides other reasons, which I cannot in prudence yet render to the World, the very civility and purity of my design, without any lustful or vicious appurtenant, would fairly excuse me.

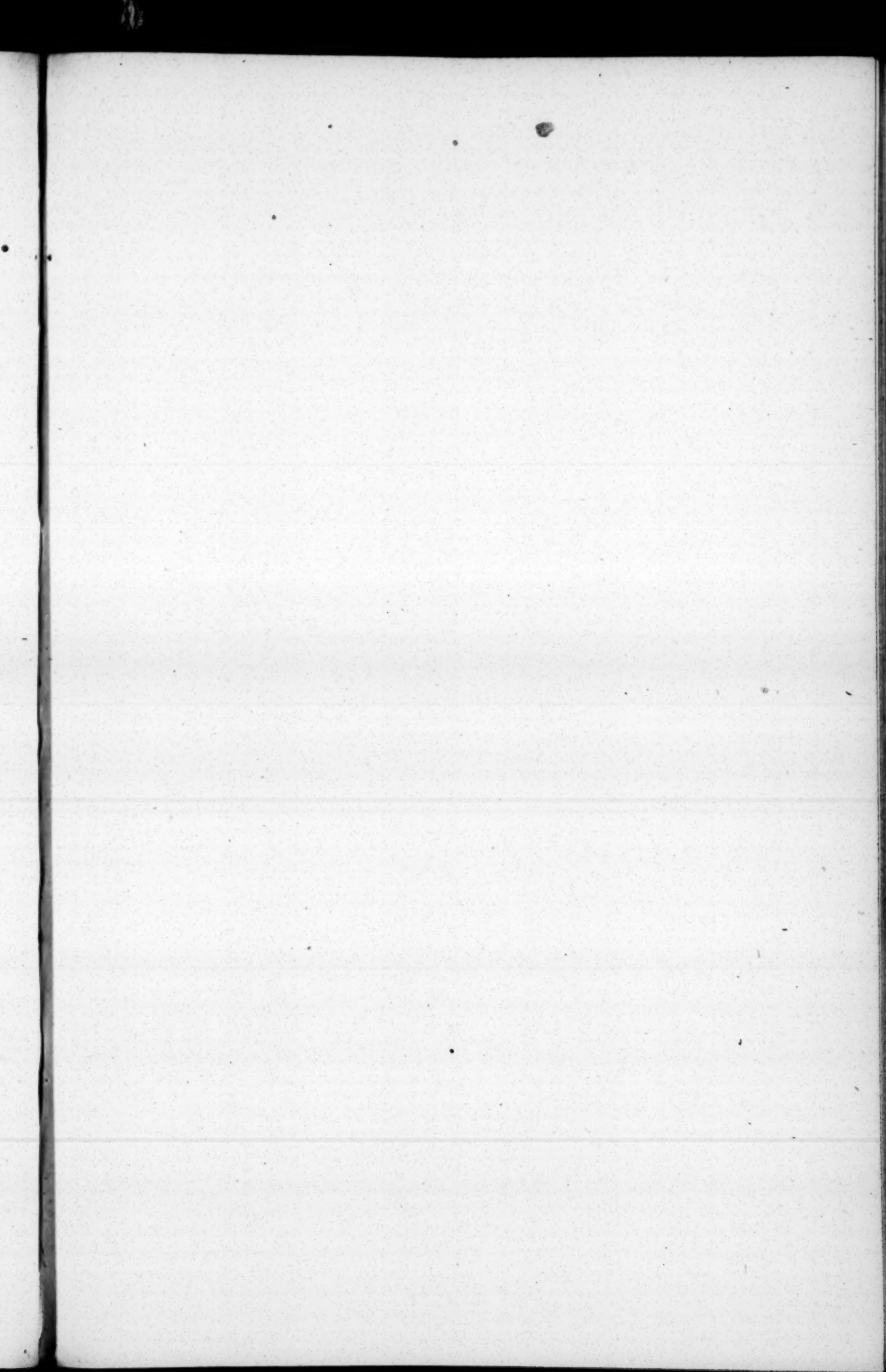
What harme have I done in pretending to great Titles? Ambition and Affection of Greatness to good and just purposes was always esteemed and accounted laudable and praiseworthy, and the sign and character of a vertuous mind, nor do I think it an unjust purpose



pose in me to contrive my own advancement by such illustrious pretences as they say I made use of, to grant the Question, that I am not so honourably descended as I insinuated to the Catchdolt my Father in Law, (which yet by their favour they shall first better and more evidently disprove then as yet they have done, before I relinquish my just claym to my Honour) I think I do rather deserve commendation then reproach ; if the best *things are to be imitated*, I had a good precept and warrant for my assumption of such a personage as they were willing to beleive me to be ; If indeed by any misbecoming act unhand-some and unbecoming such a person, I had prophaned that quality, and bewrayed and dis-

discovered any inconsistent meanness therewith (as it was very difficult to personate greatness for so long a time without slips or mistakes) I had deserved to be severely punished and abominated by all Geetlemen; whereas after all these loads of imputations which my enemies have heaped upon me, I do with my acknowledgements to them for it) enjoy, and am happy in many of their loves and good estimation.

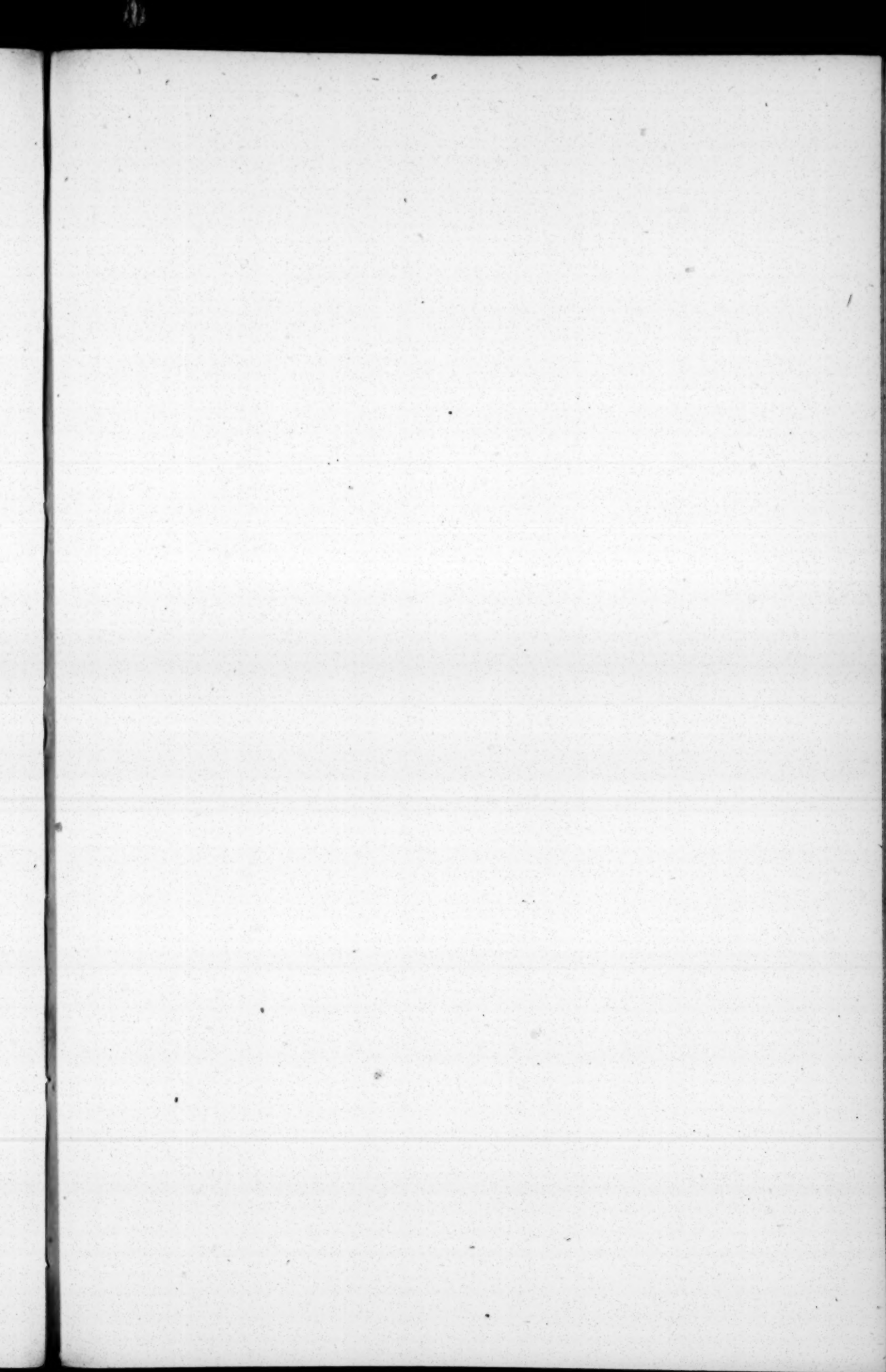
And I will yet continue the same respects, and make the World to know that there is no possibility of such perfections, without a more intent care and elegancy of learning, to which I have by great labour and industry attained.



I need not therefore engage further in this preliminary part of my defence, onely as an irrefragable confutation of the poorness of my birth, and in this Kingdom, I would have my Adversaries know, as some of them do, though they don't well understand, that the severall languages I have ready and at my command, as the *Greek*, *Latine*, *French*, *Italian*, *Spanish*, *English*, and something of the Oriental Tongues, all which I pronounce with a Dutch Dialect and Idiome, are not common and ordinary endowments of an English Spinster, no not of the best rank of the City. And since I must praise my self, in short, I came not here to learn any thing for use or ornament
of

of a woman, but onely the ways to a better fortune.

.. I come now to the matter of fact, the first place I touched at was *Gravesend*, where I arrived towards the end of *March*, and without any stay took a Tide-boat came to *London* in company with a Parson or Minister, who officiously, but I suppose out of design, gave me the trouble of his service and attendance to the *Exchange-Tavern* right against the *Stocke*, betwixt the *Poultry* and *Cornhil*, the house of one *Mr. King*, not having any knowledge of the Master or his acquaintance, and free, God knows from any design, for I would have entred any other house if I had found the doors open, or could have raised the folks nearer to my landing

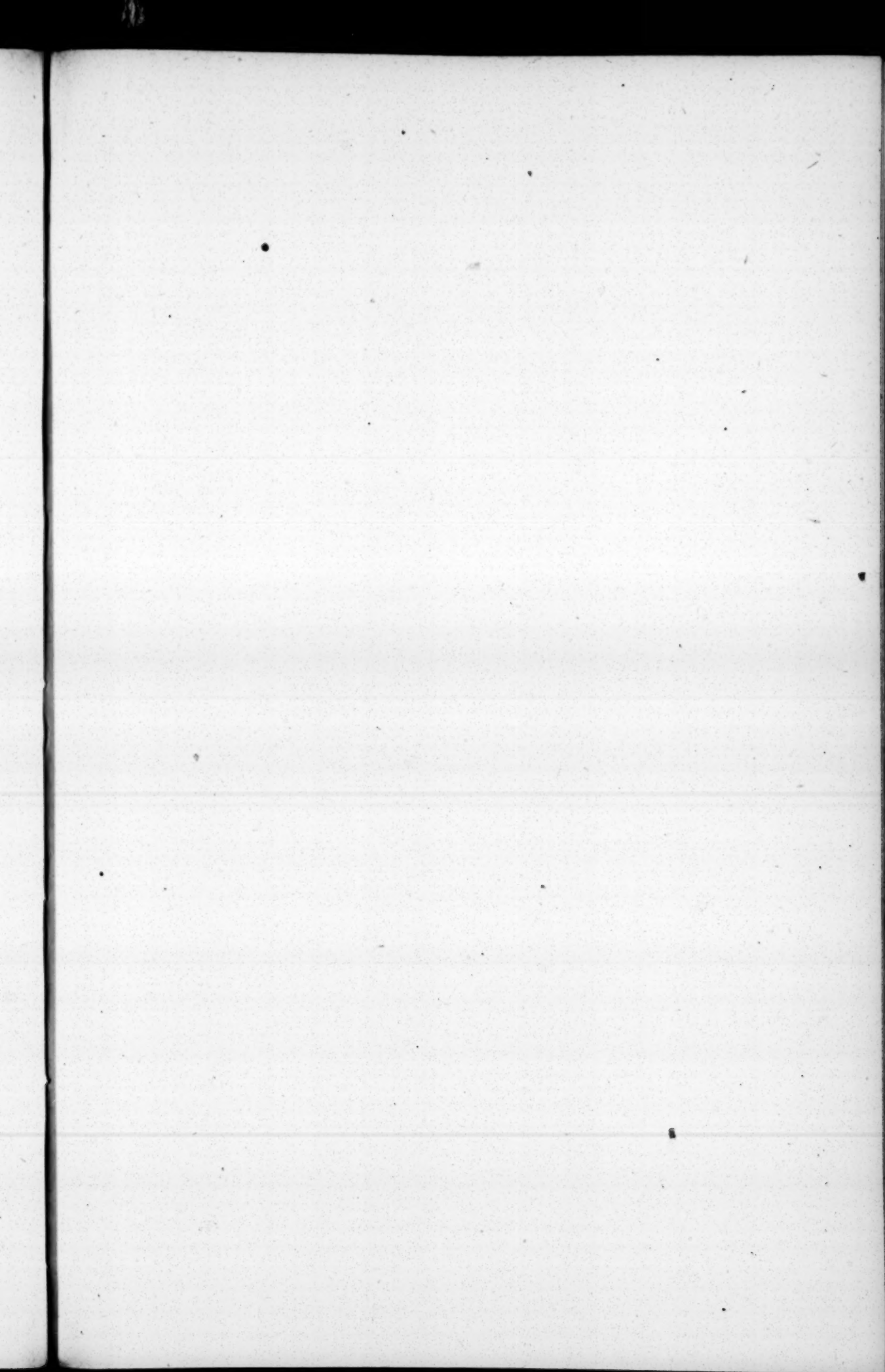


Madam Mary Carleton. 41

landing, for I was distempered with the nights passage ; but it was so early in the morning, five a clock, that there was no body stirring elsewhere, onely here by mishap *Mr. King* himself was up and standing at the Bar, telling of brasse farthings, whom the Parson desired to fill a pint of wine, which he readily performed, and brought to a room behinde the Bar. while the wine was a drinking, (which was Rhenish wine, the complement being put upon me by the Parson as the fruit of my own happy Country) Sir *John* very rudely began to accost me, and to offer some incivilities to me, which I found no other way to avoid, then by pretending want of rest to the *Master* of the house, and acquaint

acquainting him with my charge of Jewels, and that I was as I do justify myself to be a person of Quality. Hereupon a room was provided for me to repose myself in, and the Clergyman took his leave with a troublesome promise of waiting upon me another day to give me a visit, which I was forced to admit, & to tell him, I would leave word where-ever I went; but he considering as I suppose of the unfeasibleness of his desires, and the publiqueness of the place, neglected his promise and troubled me no more.

He being gone, *Mr. King* began to question me, what Country woman I was, and of what Religion, I frankly told him; and acquainted him with-
all



Madam Mary Carleton 42

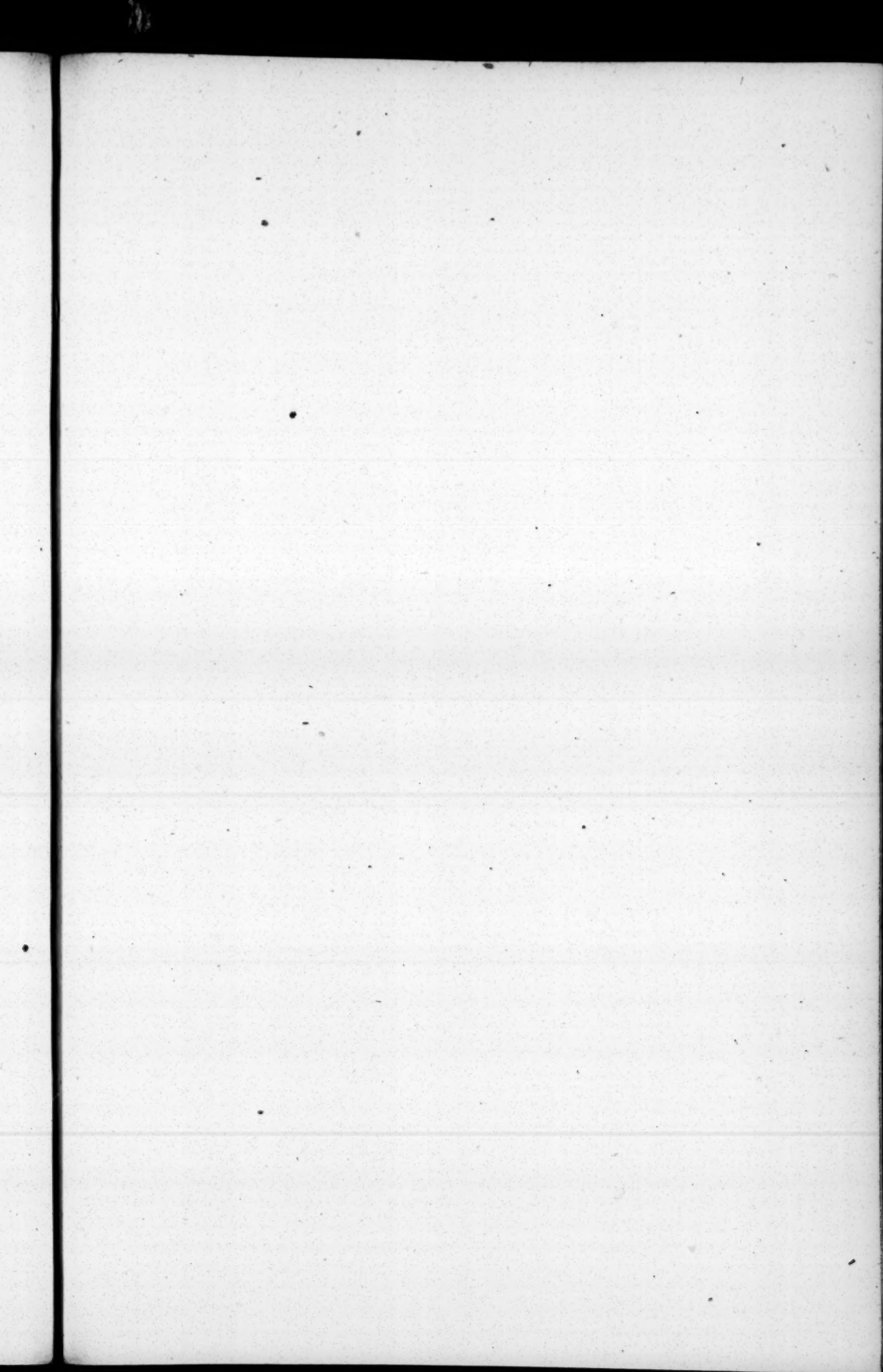
all what charge *I* had about me, which to secure from the danger of the Town, that was full of cozenage and villany, he advised me to stay with him till *I* could better provide for my self.

I rested my self here till eleven a clock at noon: when *I* arose, and was very civilly treated by *Mr. King*, who well knowing *I* was a stranger and well furnished with money, omitted no manner of respect to me, nor did *I* spend parcimoniously, and at an ordinary rate, but answerable to the quality and account, at their fetching and itching questions, *I* gave of my self.

This

This invited him earnestly , with all submits address to request my staying with them till I had dispatched, and had provided all things for my publique appearance , for the better furnishing and equipping whereof, I acquainted Him I would send by Post to my Steward , for the return of some moneys to defray the expences thereof, which Letters he viewed , and conceived such imaginations in his Head thereupon , that it never left working till it had wrought the effect of his finely begun, and hopefully continued Enterprize.

These Letters he himself delivered at my desire , to have them carefully put into the Male , to the Post-House ; and thereafter observed me with most



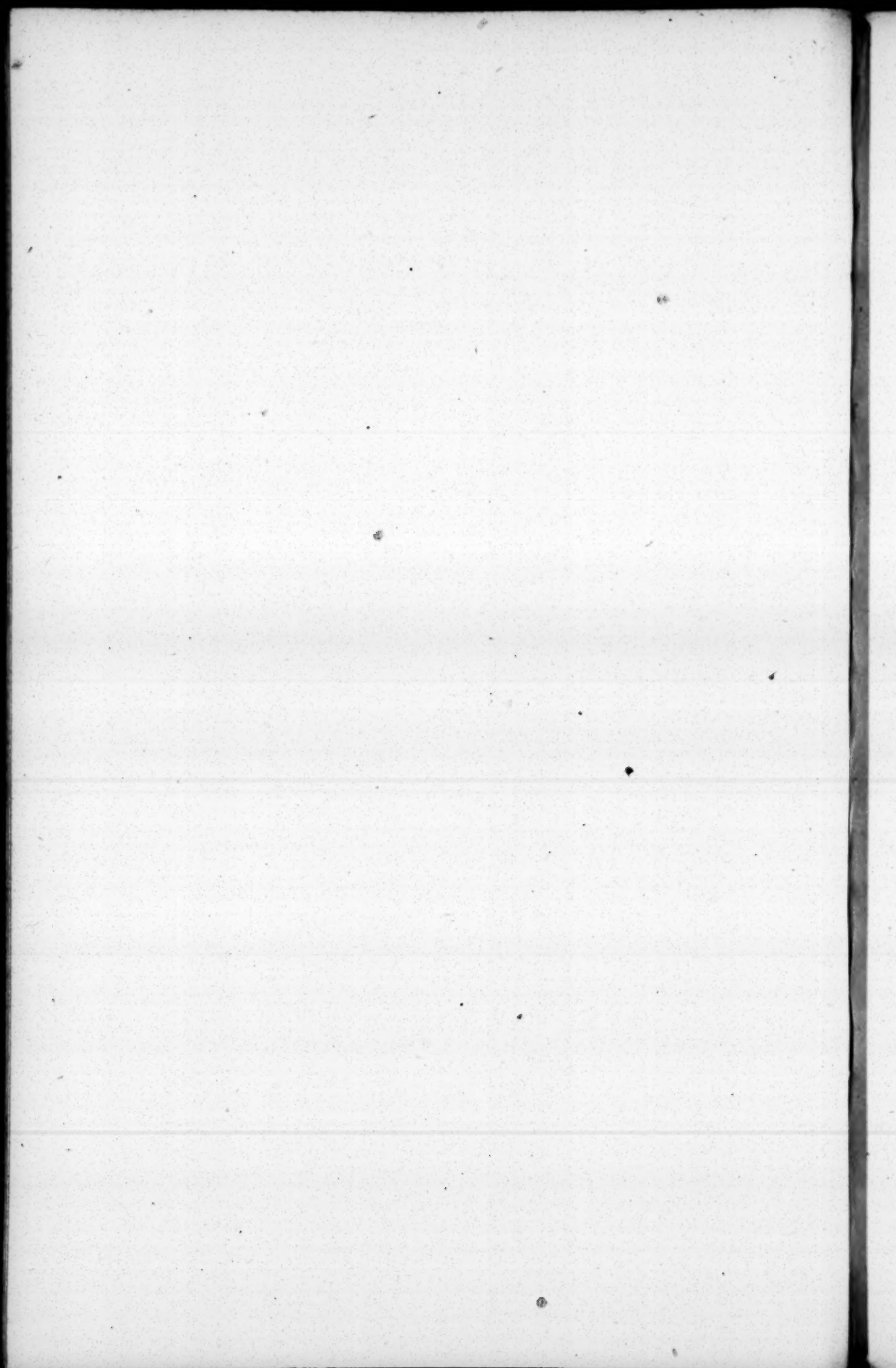
Madam Mary Carleton. 45

most manifest respects. In the *Interim* of the return of these moneys, I was slightly, and as it were by the by, upon discourse of my Country (wherein they took occasion to be liberally copious) engaged into some discovery of my self, my estate and quality, and the nature of both, the causes of my coming hither, &c. but I did it so unconcernedly, and negligently, as a matter of no moment or disturbance to me, though I had hinted at the discontent of my match, that this did assure them that all was real, and therefore it was time to secure my estate to them by a speedy and secret marriage.

Let the World now judge,
whither being prompted by such
plain and publique signes of a
design

design upon me, to counterplot them, I have done any more then what the Rule, and a received principle of Justice directs : *to deceive the deceiver, is no deceit.*

I knew not nevertheless, which way their Artifices tended, till Master *King*, brought into my acquaintance old Mr. *Carleton* his Father in Law, and soon after Mr. *John Carleton* his Son: it seems it had been consulted, to have preferred *George* the Elder Brother : He troubled with a simple modesty, and a mind no way competent to so much greatness, was laid aside, and the younger flusht and encouraged to set upon me. By this time they had obtained my Name from me, viz. *Maria de Wolway*, which passage also hath



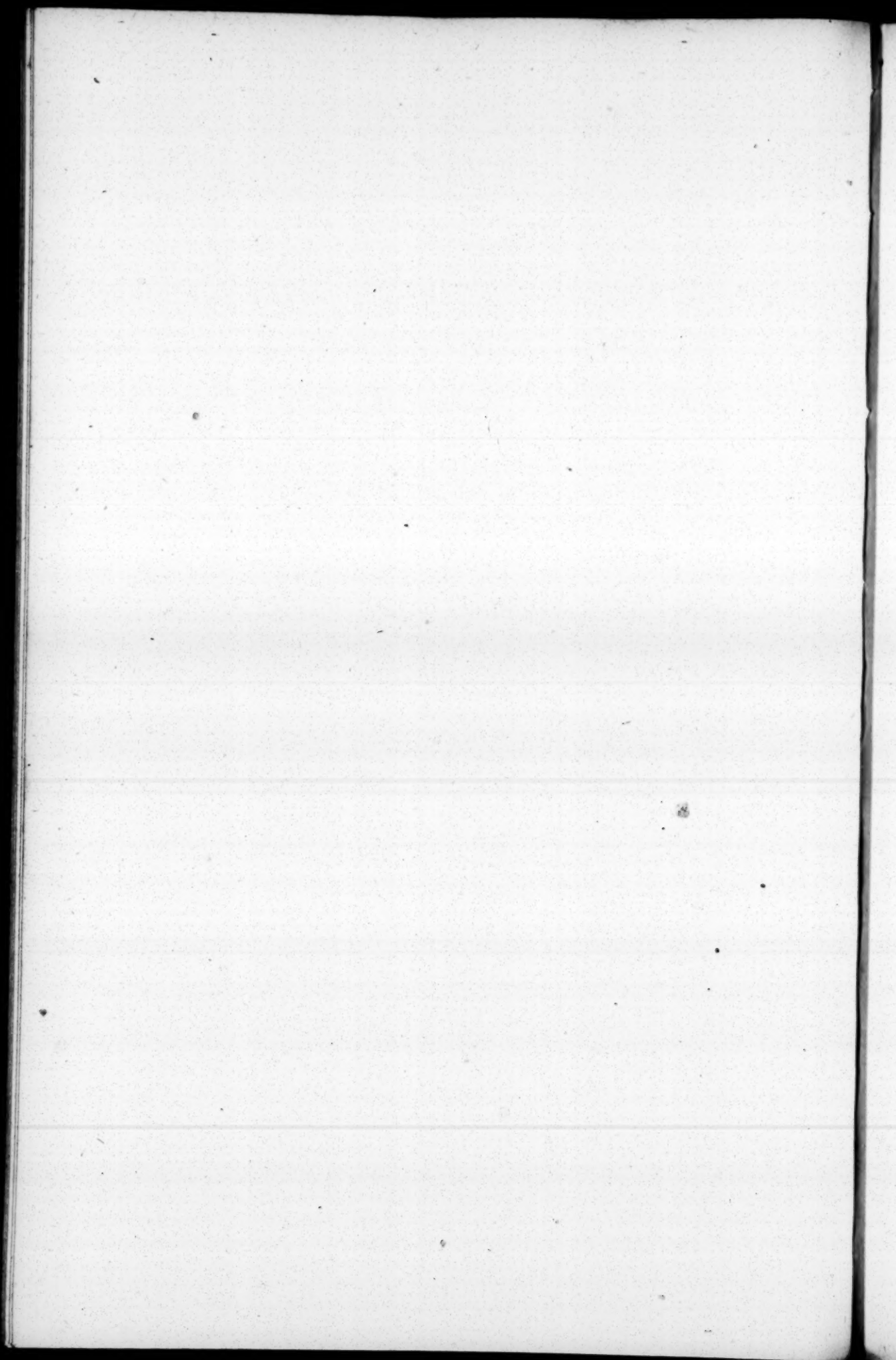
Madam Mary Carleton. 39

hath suffered by another leuder Imposture, and allusory sound of *De Vulva*: in the language of which I am better versed, then to pick out no civiller and eleganter impress.

To the Addressee of Mr. *John Carleton*, I carried my self with so much indifference, not superciliously refusing his visits, or readily admitting his suit, not disheartening him with a severe retiredness, or challenges of his imparity, nor encouraging him with a freedom or openness of Heart, or arrogance of my own condition, that he and his friends were upon the spur to consummate the match, which yet I delayed and dissembled with convenient pretences, but herein I will be more particular in the ensuing Pages.

In

In the mean while, to prevent all notice of me, and the disturbance of their proceedings, that might be occasioned thereby, they kept me close in the nature of a Prisoner, which though I perceived, yet I made no semblance thereof at all, but colluded with them in their own arts, and pretended some averfeness to all company, but onely my enamourate, Mr. *Carleton*: nor was any body else suffered to come near me, or to speak with me; Insomuch, as I have bin informed, that they promised 209*l.* to one *Sackvil*, whom for his advice, they had too forwardly, as they thought imparted the business, the sum of 200*l.* to be silent, lest that it should be heard at Court, and so the Estate and Honour which they had



Madam Mary Carleton. 49

had already swallowed, would be lost from their Son, and seized by some Courtier, who should next come to hear of this great Lady.

After many visits passed betwixt Mr. *Carleton* and my self, Old Mr. *Carleton* and Mr. *King* came to me, and very earnestly pressed the dispatch of the Marriage, and that I would be pleased to give my Assent, setting forth with all the qualities and great sufficiencies of that Noble person, as they pleased to stile him. I knew what made them so urgent, for they had now seen the answers I had received by the Post, by which I was certified of the receipt of mine, and that accordingly some thousands of Crowns should be remitted instantly to *London*, and

D Coach

Coach and Horses sent by the next Shipping, with other things I had sent for, and to reinforce this their *commendamus* the more effectually, they acquainted me, that if I did not presently grant the suit, and their request, Mr. *Carleton* was so far in love with me, that he would make away with himself, or presently travail beyond Sea, and see *England* no more.

I cannot deny, but that I could hardly forbear smiling, to see how serious these *Elders* and *Brokers* were in this *Love-killing* story, but keeping to my business, after some demurs and demands, I seemed not to consent, and then they began passionately, urging me with other stories, some of which long repetition I will now insert:

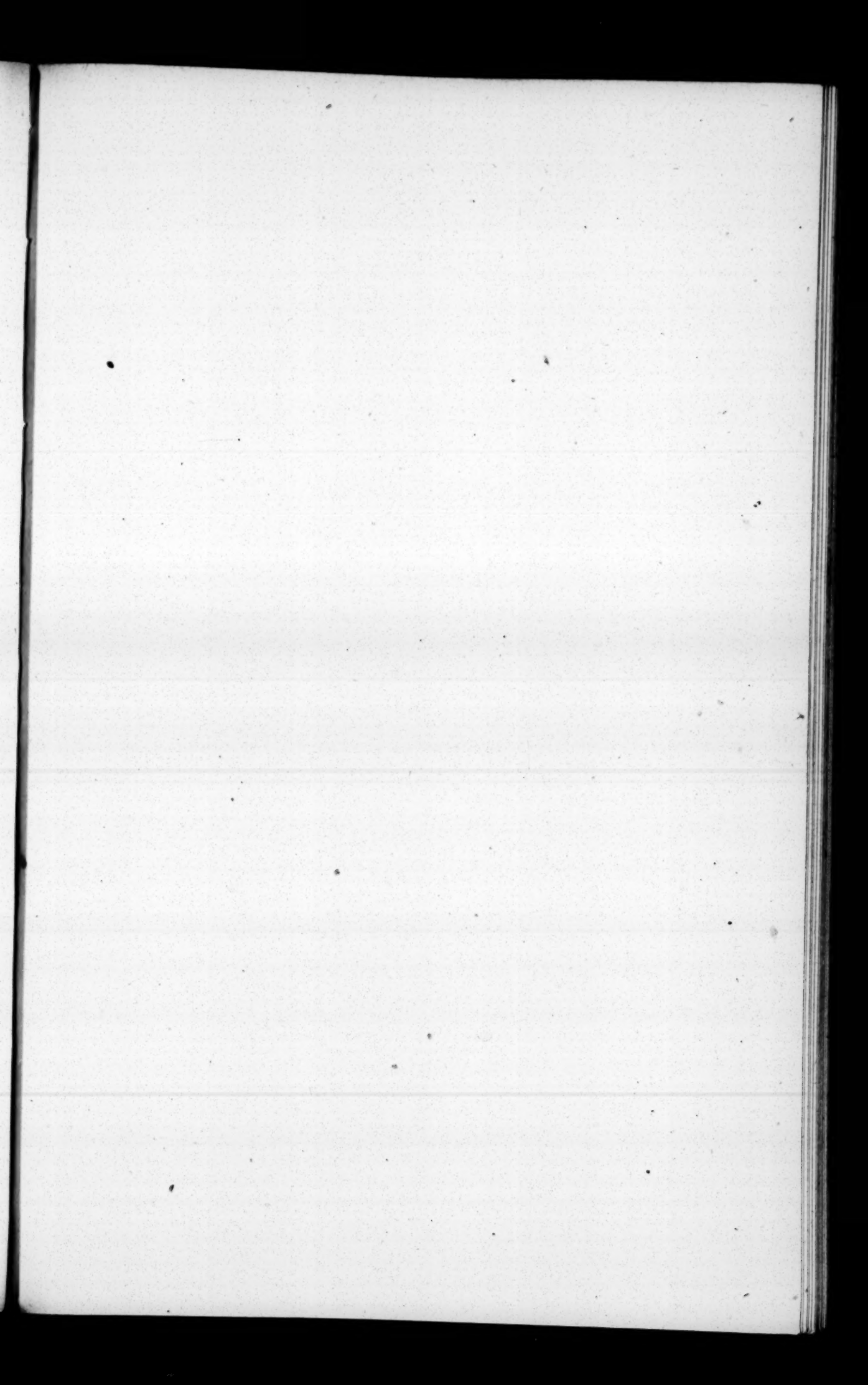
Wednesday

Madam Mary Carleton 51

Wednesday the first of *April*,
Mrs. *King* made a great Feast,
where were divers persons of
quality, as she said, amongst the
rest, her Brother Mr. *John Carle-*
ton. At which entertainment
Mrs. *King* did advise me to call
her Cozen, the which I did.
Thursday the second of *April*,
Mr. *John Carleton* came in his
Coach, with two Footmen at-
tending on him, calling him my
Lord, and Mrs. *King* did also call
him my *Lord*. With that I ask-
ed Mrs. *King*, if it was not the
same person that dined with us
yesterday; she said, True, it
was so, but he was in a Disguise
then, and withal, that in a hu-
mour he would often do so :
But, saith she, *I do assure you he*
is a Lord. Upon that I replied,
Then his father must be an Earl, if
D 2 living

living. She affirmed, that he was a person of great honour. The same time my Lord presented me with a rich box of Sweetmeats: I could do no less then thankfully accept thereof.

My Lord came every day to *Mr. Kings*, and by his importunity would carry me abroad in a Coach to *Holloway* and *Islington*. *Mrs. King* would often ask me, what my Lord did say to me; I told her, *nothing that I observed, but his Lordship abounded in civility, mixt with complements*. How; said she, *Madam, He loves you. Loves me, for what Mistris King?* I replied. She said, *For your great parts and Endowments*. I asked her, *How my Lord could tell that I had either*. She said, *My Lord must have very good eyes if he could see within*

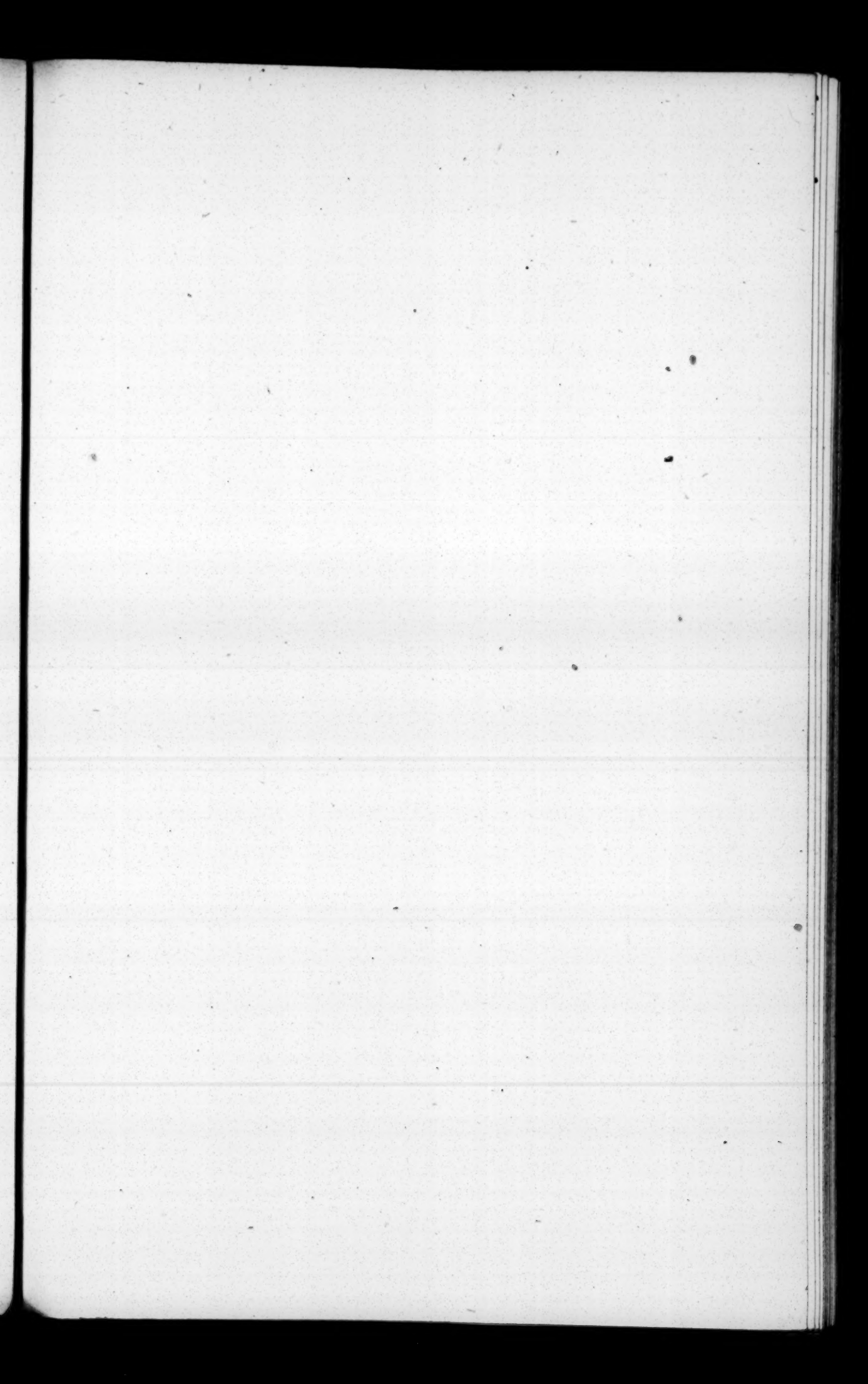


Madam Mary Carleton. 53

within me, or else I must be very transparent.

After which, I did order the matter so, that his access to me was not so easie: Mistris King importuneth me to admit my Lord to visit me; I told her plainly, *That I did not understand his Lordships meaning.* He provided me a great Banquet, at which his Lordships mother was very fine drest, who questioned what I was. I told my Lord, *That I had received civilities from him, and he had the like from me, and that I had no necessity to give any account to any person what I was, for any thing that I intended; and that if any design or affair of his required any such thing out of convenience, or otherwise he might forbear it.* His Lordship excused his mothers

thers inquisition, by saying, *She was his Mother, and that Parents did think themselves concerned, in looking after the good of their Children. But* (said he) *Madam, Wave all this, however I will marry you to morrow. What* (said I) *my Lord, without my consent : my Lord, I desire your Lordship not to come near me any more, I will not lye under such questioning and scrutiny : Your Lordship will be safe in following my advice, in not coming at me any more. Upon this his Lordship wept bitterly : I with-drew my self from his presence : He writ a Letter of high Complements to me (the which Letter was lost in that violent surprize of me and my things, by the force of Mr. George Carleton, my Husbands*
Father



Madam Mary Carleton. 55

Father.) At the same time I had a Gown making upon my own account, by *Mrs. Kings* Taylor in the *Strand*, I took a Coach and went thither; all this while the young Lord not knowing where I was, remained impatient until my return; where I found him standing at the Bar (in a very pensive and melancholy manner, as if he had been arraigned for not paying his reckoning) at the *Exchange-Tavern*, and suddenly claspt about my middle, and violently carryed me to my Chamber. I asked his meaning: He answered, *That I had forbid him my presence; that it had almost made him mad; that he desired nothing more of me, then but to let him look upon me.* Upon that he did, with a very strange gesture, fix his eyes
D 4 upon

upon me : In compassion to him, I askt him what his Lordship meant , and intended ; he replied in a kind of discomposed manner , *I would have you to be my Wife.* I answered him , *My Lord, I rather think you have courted me for a Mistress, then for a Wife : I assure you, that I will never be a Mistress to the greatest of Princes, I will rather chuse to be a Wife to the meanest of men.*

Upon which, he uttered divers asseverations in confirmation of the realty of his intentions, and earnest desire of the Honour in making me his Wife , without any respect to what I had.

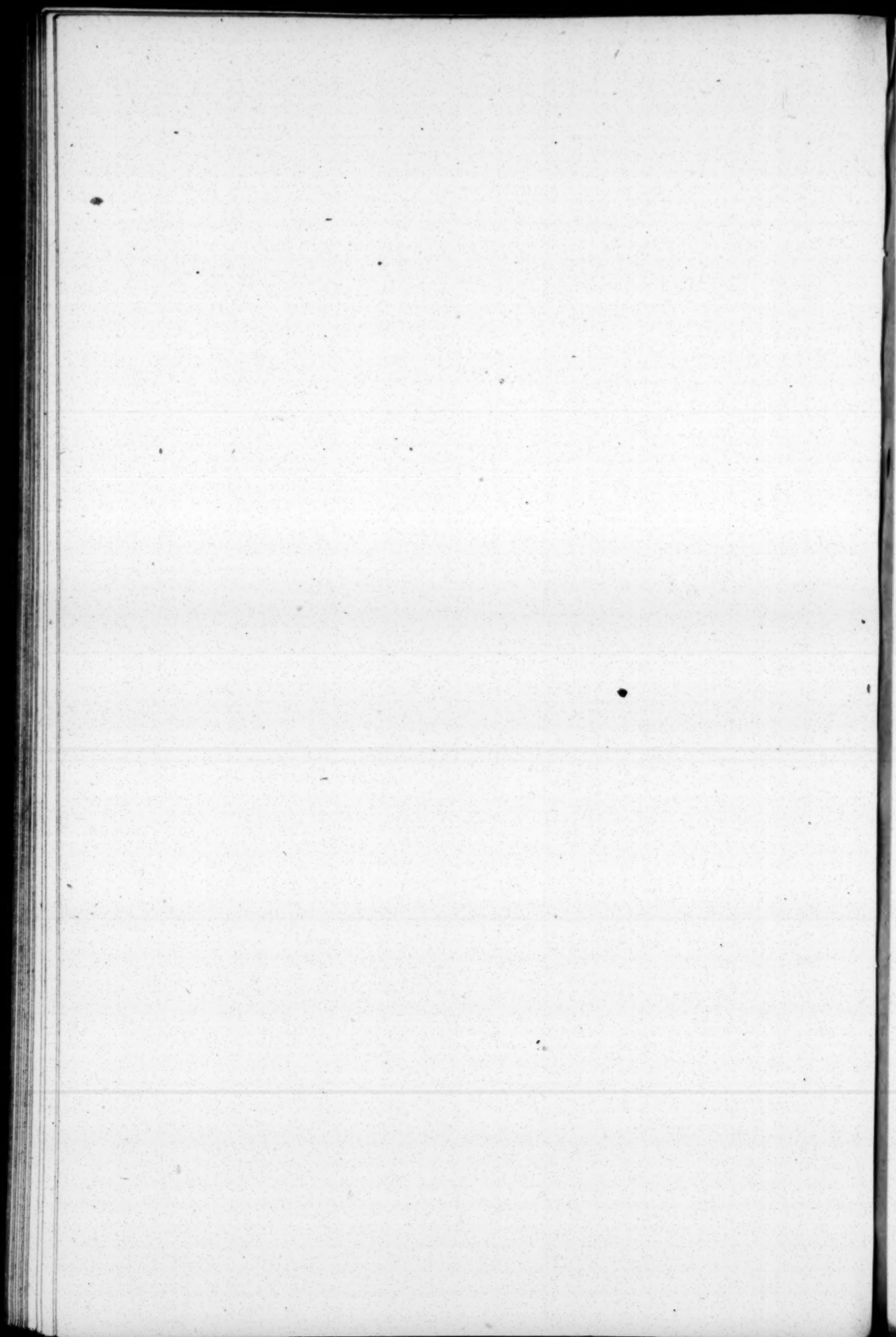
After my Lord had insinuated his affections so far, that I began to understand him, and did mix and scatter some such like accep-

acceptable words , which put him into some confidence of obtaining me ; he began like other Lovers to set forth the amplitude of his Fortunes , and those brave things he would do if I would finish his suit ; among many other finenesses and Grandures he would bestow on me, I well remember , he told me that he had given order for a great Glass Coach of the new fashion to be presently made, against our wedding was over, where eleven or twelve might conveniently sit , and that he would sute it with a set of Lacquies and Pages , the neatest and handsomest of the Town for their Liveries and persons. That I might see I had married a person that not onely dearly loved me , but would also highly honour

nour me, with the most splendid accomodations that *England* yeilded.

At the very same time, he had changed as he told me (and part of it I saw) two hundred pound of silver, into two hundred peices of Gold, for the better portableness thereof, that his Princess might see nothing of meanness belonging to him, and that as soon as the Coach was made and all things fitted to it, he would presently go to Court, and carry me with him, and introduce me to the King and Queen: his further intention being, which as yet he concealed to me, to get a *Knight-hood*, and have something of honour to oppose the envy of men, that so great an Estate was conferred on a private person.

And



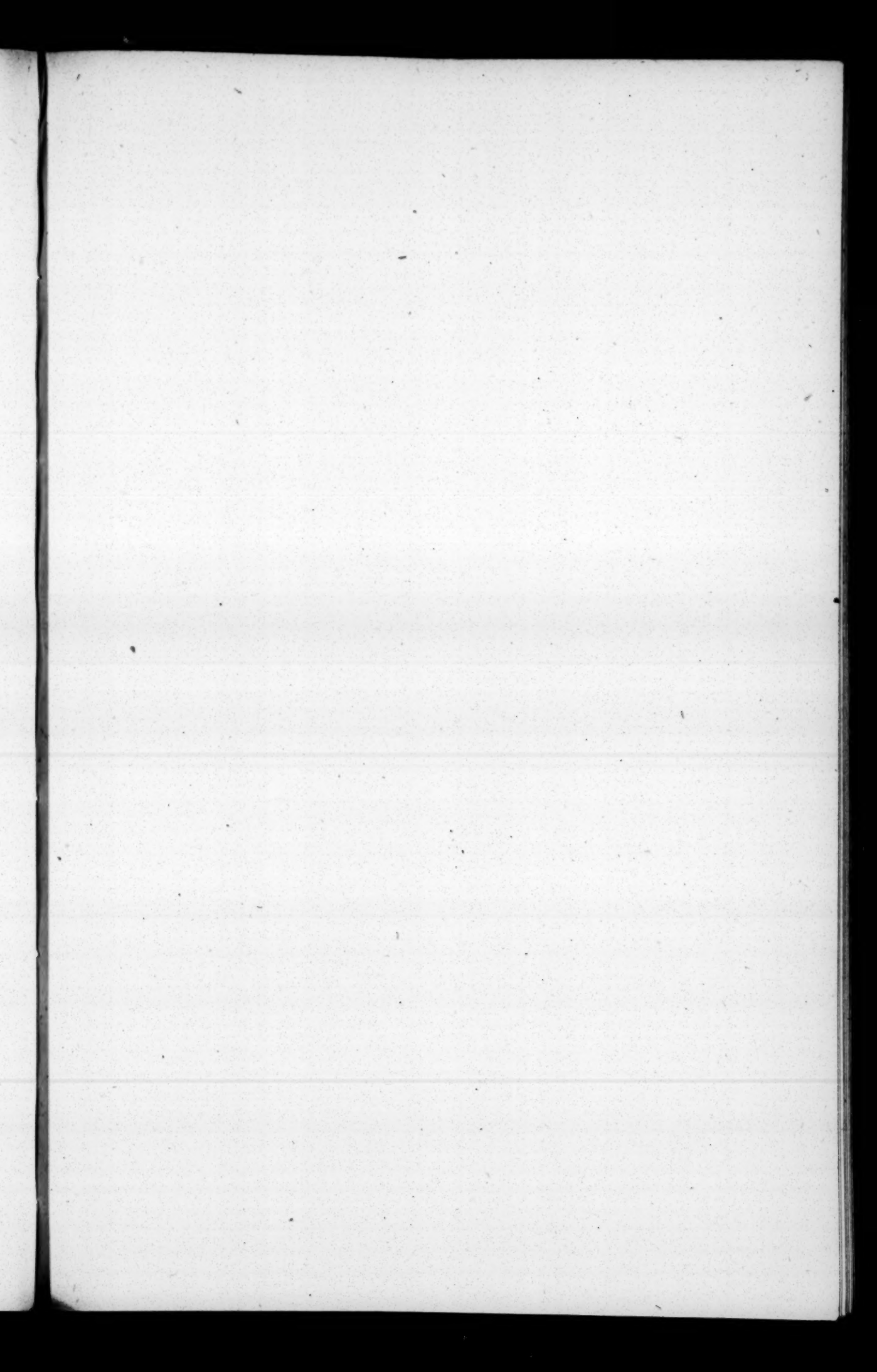
Madam Mary Carleton 59

And now my Lord spoke nothing but Rodomantadoes of the greatness of his Family, of the delights and stateliness of his Lands and houses, the game of his Parks, the largeness of his stables, and convenience of Fish and Fowl, for furnishing his liberal and open House-keeping, that I should see *England* afforded more pleasure than any place in the World, but they were (without the Host) reckoned and charged beforehand to my account, and to be purchased with my estate, which was his, by a figure of anticipation, when we two should be all one, and therefore he lyed not, but onely equivocated a little.

But

But he did not in the least mention any such thing to me, nor made any offer of enquiry what I was, nor not the least semblance or shadow of it; he seemed to take no notice of my fortunes, it was my person he onely courted, which having so happily and accidentally seen, he could not live, if I cherisht not his affections. Nor did I think it then convenient or civil to question the credit of his words, and the report given me of him. His demeanour I confests was light, but I imputed that to his youth, and the vanity of a Gallant, as necessary a quality, and as much admired as wit in a Woman.

The

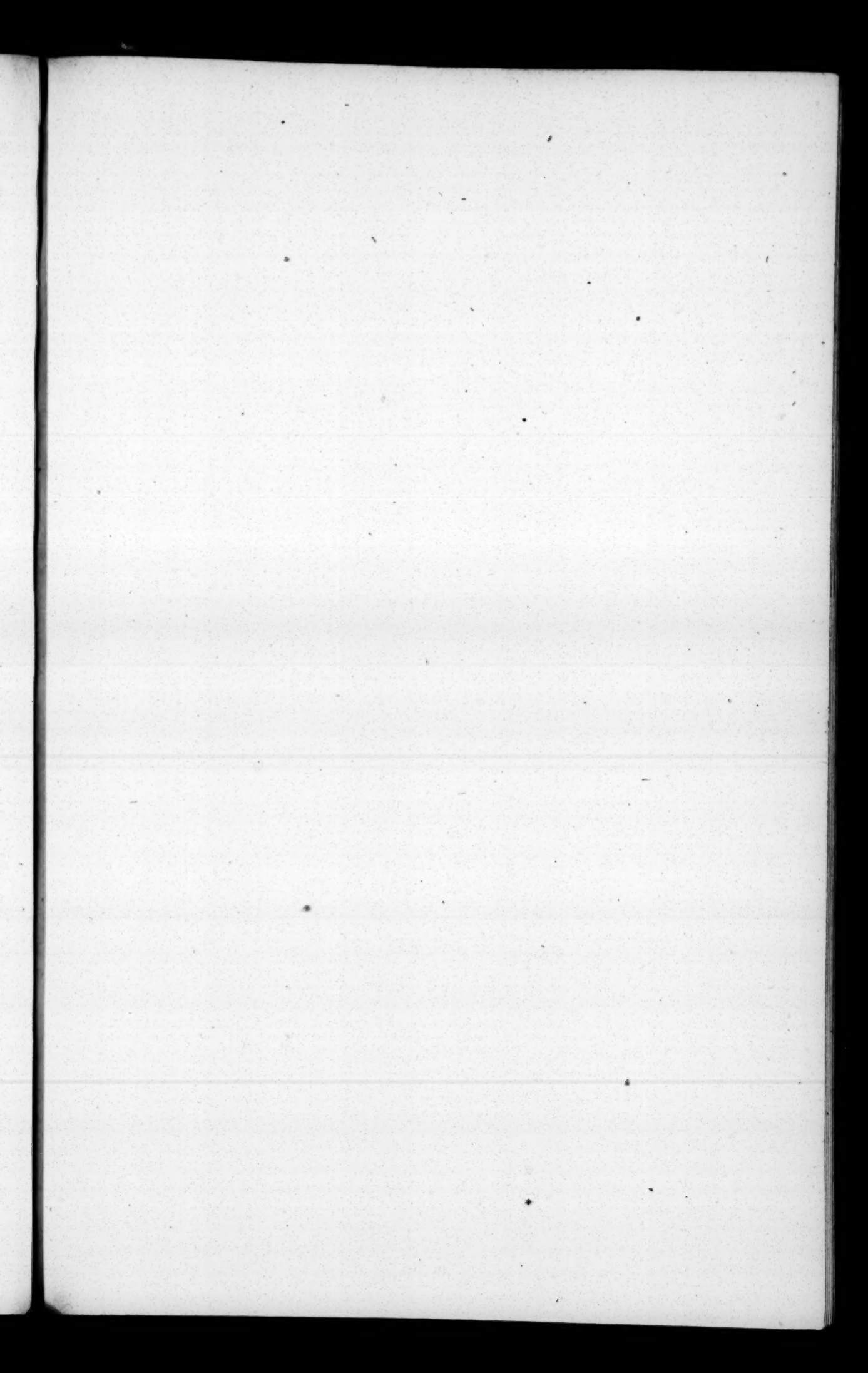


Madam Mary Carletons 61

The last day of my virgin state,
Easter Eve, the Taylor brought
me my Gown to my Lodging, I
being drest and adorned with
my Jewels, he again renewed
his suit to me; with all impor-
tunity imaginable: His courte-
ous Mother was also now most
forward, pressing me to con-
sent, by telling me, that *she*
should lose her Son, and his wits,
he being already impatient with
denials and delays, adding
withal, that he was a person
hopeful, and might deserve my
condiscention: I withstood all
their sollicitation, although they
continued it until twelve of
the Clock that night: The young
Lord at his taking his leave of
me, told me he would attend
me betimes the next morning,
and carry me to *St. Pauls*
Church

Church, to hear the Organs, saying, that there would be very excellent Anthems performed by rare voices, the morrow being Sunday, the 19. of *April* last: in the morning betimes, the young Lord cometh to my Chamber-door, desiring admittance, which I refused, in regard I was not ready; yet so soon as my head was dressed, I let him have access: he hastned me, and told me his Coach was ready at the door, in which he carried me to his Mothers in the *Grey-friers, London*, where I was assaulted by the young Lords tears, and others to give my consent to marry him, telling me that they had a Parson and a License ready, which was a meer falsehood, and temporary falacy to secure the match.

So.



Madam Mary Carleton 63

So on *Easter* morning, with three Coaches, in which with the Bride and Bridegroom were all the kindred that were privy to the business, and pretended a Licence, they carried me to *Clothfair* by *Smithfield*, and in the Church of Great St. *Bartholomews*, Married me by one Mr. *Smith*, who was well paid for his paynes: and now they thought themselves possessed of their hopes, but because they would prevent the noise and fame, of their good fortune from publique discourse, that no sinister accident might intervene, before Mr. *Carleton* had bedded me, offence being likely to be taken at Court, (as they whispered to themselves) that a Private Subject had Married a Forraign Princess, they had
before

before determined to go to *Barnet*, and thither immediately after the celebration of the Marriage we were Driven in the Coaches, where we had a handsome treatment, and there we staid Sunday and Munday, both which nights Mr. *Carleton* lay with me, and on Tuesday morning we were Married again, a License being then obtained to make the match more fast and sure, at their instance with me to consent to it.

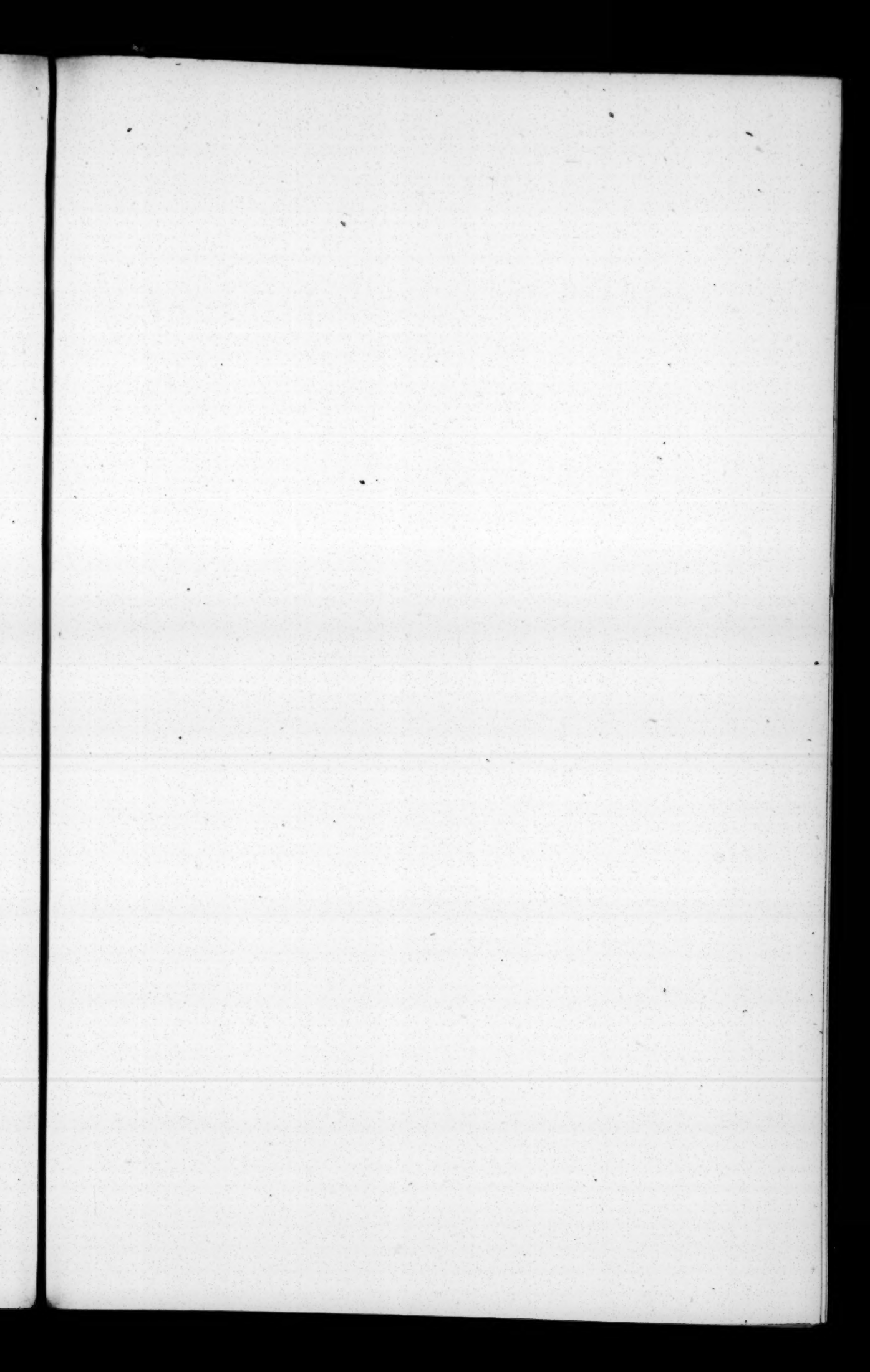
This being done, and their fears over, they resolved to put me in a garb befitting the Estate and dignity they fancied I had; and they were so far possessed with a beleif of it, that they gave out, I was worth no less then 80000 *li. per annum*, and my Husband, as I must now stile him

Madam Mary Carleton. 65

him, published so much in a Coffee-house ; adding withal, to the extolling of his good hap, that there was a further Estate but that it was my modesty or design to conceal it : And that he could not attribute his great fortune to any thing but the Fates, for he had not any thing to ballance with the least of my Estate and Merits : So do conceited heighths of sudden prosperity and greatness dazzle the eyes and judgement of the most, nor could this young man be much blamed for his vainglorious mistake.

My Cloaths being made at the charge of my Father in Law, and other fineries of the mode & fashion sent me by some of his Kindred and friends (who prided themselves in this happy affinity,

finity, and who had an eye upon some advantages also, and therefore gave me this early bribe, as testimonies of their early respect, & as for Jewels I had of mine own of all sorts, for Necklaces, Pendants and Bracelets, of admirable splendor and brightness. I was in a Princelike attire, and a splendid equipage and retinue, accounted for publique view among all the great Ladies of the Court and the Town on *May* day ensuing. At which time in my Lady *Bludworths* Coach, which the same friends procured for my greater accommodation, and accompanied with the same Lady with Footmen and Pages, I rode to Hide-Park, in open view of that celebrious Cavalcade and Assembly, much gazed upon by them



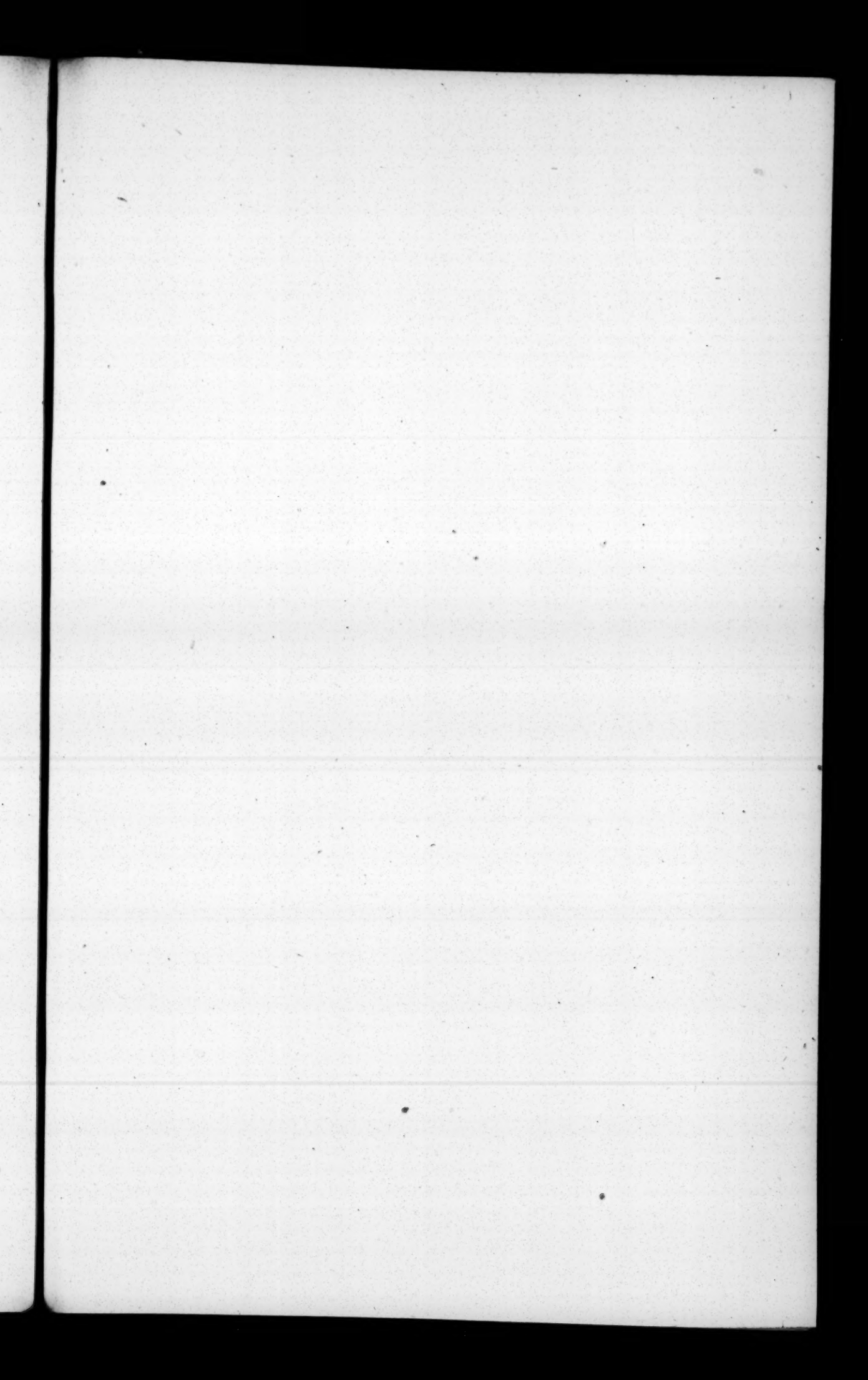
Madam Mary Carleton 67

them all, the eximiousness of my fortune drawing their eyes upon me; particularly that noble Lady gave me precedence, and the right hand, and a neat Treatment after our divertisement of turning up and down the park.

I was altogether ignorant of what estate my Husband was, and therefore made no nicety to take those places his friends gave me, and if I be taxed for incivility herein, it was his fault that he instructed me no better in my quality, for I conceited still that he was some landed, honorable and wealthy man.

Things yet went fairly on, the same observances and distances continued, and lodgings befitting a person of Quality taken for me in *Durham Tard*,
at

at one mr. *Greens*, where my husband and I enjoyed one another with mutual complacency, till the return of the moneys out of *Germany* failing the day and their rich hopes, old Mr. *Carleton* began to suspect he was deceived in his expectation, and that all was not gold that glistered: but to remove such a prejudice from himself, as if he were the Authour of those scandals that were now prepared against my innocence, a Letter is produced, and sent from some then unknown hand, which reflected much upon my Honour and Reputation; and thereupon on the fifth or sixth of *May* ensuing, I was by a Warrant dragged forth of my new Lodgings, with all the disgrace and contumely that could be



Madam Mary Carleton. 69

be cast upon the vilest offender in the World, at the instigation of old Mr. *Carleton*, who was the Prosecutor, and by him and his Agents devested and stript of all my cloaths, and plundred of all my jewels, and my money, my very bodyes, and a payr of silk Stockings, being also pulled from me, and in a strange array carried before a Justice.

But because this story hath not yet been fully discovered, I will more manifestly here declare it; That Letter abovesaid, came from one Mr. *John Clay*, the younger Son of Mr. *Clay* a Drugster at the Bear and Mortar in *Lumber-street*, a Servant and Admirer of Mrs. *King* my fine Sister in Law, (who because her Husband hath a weak head,
(though

(though he sat like a Parliament man once in *Richard Cromwells* time for three days, as since I have been informed) must have an assistant to carry on the business. The contents of this Letter were neer to this purpose,

SIR,

I *Am unknown to you, but hearing that your Son Mr. John Carleton hath married a Woman of a pretended great Fortune, and high birth, I thought fit to give you timely notice of what I know, and have heard concerning her, that she is an absolute Cheat, hath Married several men in our County of Kent, and then run away from them, with what they had; If it be the same woman*

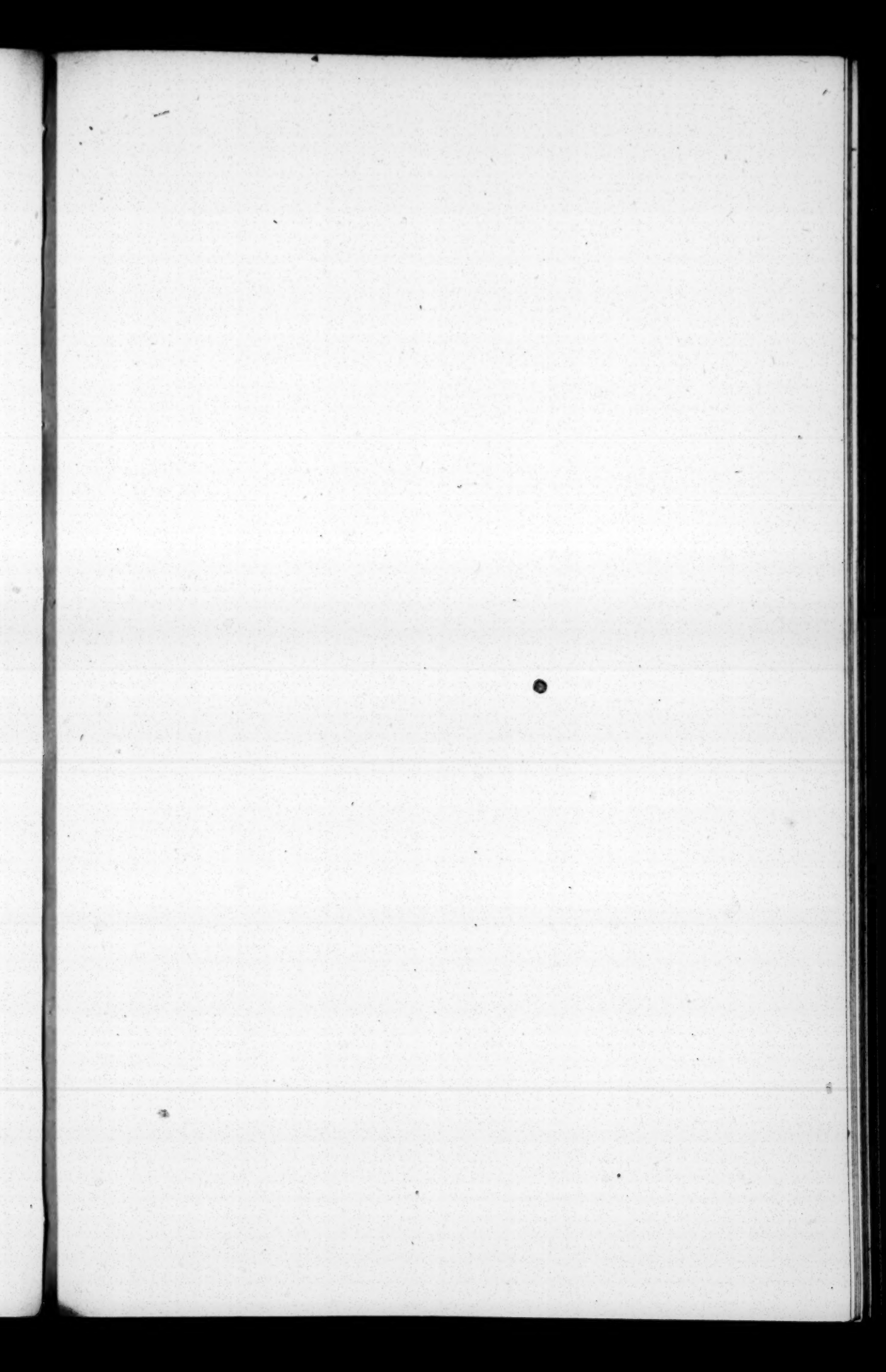
Madam Mary Carleton. 71

woman I mean, she speaks several languages fluently, and hath very high Breasts, &c.

I was at the Exchange Tavern, as it was designed, when this Letter was brought, and thereupon their countenances were set to a most melancholly look, and pale hue, which shewed a mixture of fear and anger: presently I was brought before the inquisition of the Family, and examined concerning the said Letter, which I constantly, innocently, and disdainfully denied, so that they seemed something satisfied to the contrary, and so my Husband and I went home in a Coach, but that very same night, all the gang, with one Mrs. Clark a Neighbour to King, came

came to my lodging where after most vile language, as Cheating Whore, and the like, they pulled me up and down, and kept me stript upon a bed, not suffering my Husband to come neer me, though I cryed out for him to take my part, and do like a man to save me from that violence, who at a distance excused it, by putting all this barbarity upon his Father; In fine they left me not a rag, rinsing every wet cloath out of the water, and carrying them away, The whole, was a most unwomanly and rude Action at the best of it, if I had been such as they pretended me to be, and not to be parralleld, but by a story I have lately heard of the six woman shavers in *Drury-Lane*.

See



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See the fickleness and vanity of humane things, to day *embellished*, and adorned with all the female Arts of bravery and gallantry, and courted and attended on by the best rank of my sex, who are jealous observers what honour and respect they give among themselves, to a very punctilio; and now disrobed and disfigured in mishapen Garments, and almost left naked, and haled and pulled by Beadles, and such like rude and boisterous fellows, before a Tribunal, like a leud Criminal.

The Justices Name was Mr. *Godfrey*, by whose *Mittimus*, upon an accusation managed by Old Mr. *Carleton*, that I had married two Husbands, both of them in being, I was committed to the *Gate-house*. Being
E interrogated

interrogated by the Justice, whether or no I had not two Husbands as was alledged, I Answered, if I had, He was one of them, which I beleive incensed Him something the more against me, but I did not know the Authority and dignity of his place, so much am I a stranger to this Kingdom.

There were other things and crimes of a high nature objected against me besides, That I cheated a Vintner of sixty pounds, and was for that committed to Newgate, but that I quickly vanished, for it was made appear, That I was never a Prisoner there, nor was my name ever recorded in their books; And that I pickt a Kentish Lords pocket, and cheated a French Merchant of Rings, Jewels

Madam Mary Carleton. 75

Jewels and other Commodities,
That I made an escape, when
sold and shipt for the *Barbadoes*;
but these were urged onely as
surmises; and old *Carleton* bound
over to prosecute onely for Bi-
gamy, for my having two hus-
bands.

Thus the world may see how
industrious mischeif is to ruine
a poor helpless and destitute
Woman, who had neither mo-
ney, friends nor acquaintance
left me; yet I cannot deny that
my Husband lovingly came to
me at the Gatehouse the same
day I was committed, and did
very passionately complain of his
Fathers usage of me, meerly
upon the disappointment, as he
said, of their expectations, and
that he could be contented to
love me as well as ever, to live

E 2 with

with me and own me as a wife, and used several other expressions of tenderness to me.

Nor have I less affection and kind sentiments for him, whom I own and will own till death dissolve the union, and did acquaint him with so much there, and protested my innocence to him, nor do I doubt could he have prevailed with his Father, but that these things had never happened. If now after my vindication he prove faithless and renege me, his fault will be doubly greater, in that he neither assisted my innocence when endangered, nor cherished it when vindicated by the Law.

In this prison of the Gate-house I continued six weeks, in a far better condition than I
pro-

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promised my self, but the greater civilities I ow to the Keeper: as I am infinitely beholding to several persons of quality, who came at first I suppose out of curiosity to see me, and did thereafter nobly compassionate my calamitous, and injurious restraint.

All that troubled me was an abusive pamphlet which went under my Husbands name, wherein, most pitifully he pleaded his frailty and misfortune, and intituled it to no lesser precedent then *Adam*, which I suppose was had out of the new *Ballad*, of your Humble Servant, a hint whereof, please the Reader to take in this Abridgement.

Reader,

I shall not give my self

E 3

the

the trouble, to recollect and declare the several motives and inducements that deceitful, but wise enough, Woman used to deceive me with, &c. Her Wit did more and more ingage and charm me: Her Qualities deprived me of my own; Her Courteous Behaviour, her Majestick Humility to all persons, her Emphatical speeches, her kind and loving expressions; and amongst other things, her high detestation of all manner of Vice, as Lying, &c. Her great Pretence to zeal in her Religion; her modest Confidence and Grace in all Companies, Fearing the knowledge of none; her demeanour was such, that she left no room for Suspicion, not onely in my opinion, but also in others both Grave and Wise. And all this is real and not feigned,
and

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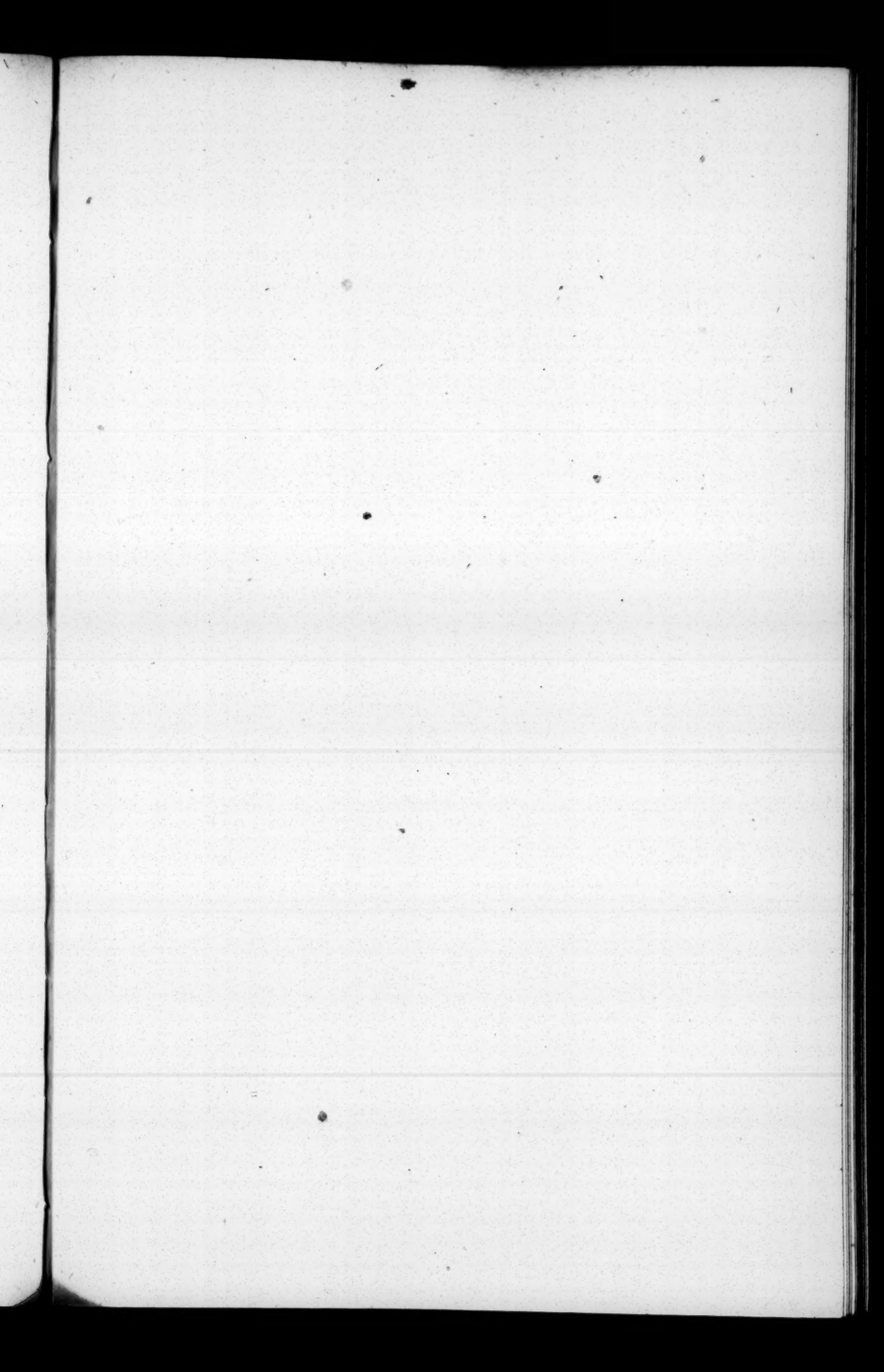
and more convincingly and apparently true, by this foil of his own setting, As for his undertaking to tell the Story of the management of the business betwixt us; he is so far from doing me justice herein, that he wrongeth me and his own soul by lying.

For Confutation of which, I refer the Reader to the ensuing Tryal; Onely there is one passage that I am unwilling to let slip, that is, he saith there, that my Father was in Town upon my Commitment, and did acknowledge me to be his Daughter, and that I had played many such tricks. It's strange this Father of mine could not be produced at the Tryal, if that had been true.

And yet a little before this,
upon.

upon his visiting me in the *Gate-house*, where I was destitute of money and subsistence, at my first coming in he seemed very tender of me, and charged the Keeper I should want nothing, for as far as 40*sh.* went, he would see him payd, which I beleive he must ere long, and after that sent me a Letter, which is the onely paper I have by me of his, the other amorous and loving scriblings being lost and taken from me, the same time that they plundered me of my Jewels, I do not know what I may do for them, but I hope I shall never cry for those Epistles. This done in these words, so that my Love and my Dear, could be hot and cold almost in an instant.

My



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My Dearest Heart,

Although the manner of your Usage may very well call the sincerity of my Affection and Expressions to you in question ; Yet when I consider , That thou art not ignorant of the Compulsion of my Father , and the Animosity of my whole relations, both against You and my Self for Your sake , I am very confident your goodness will pardon and pass by those things which at present I am no way able to help ; And be you confident , That notwithstanding my Friends aversion , there shall be nothing within the reach of my power shall be wanting , that may conduce both to your liberty , main-
shall

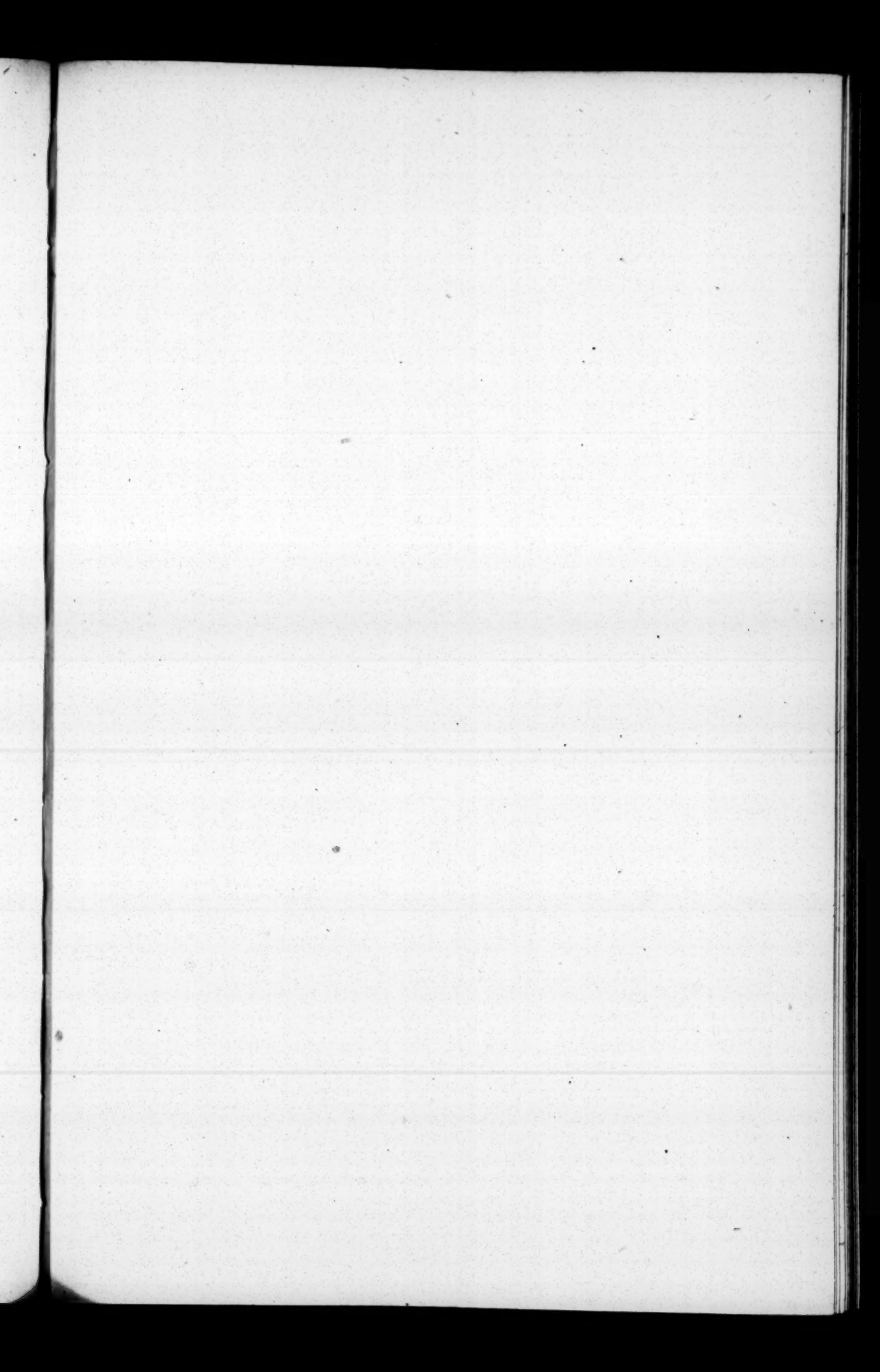
tenance, and Vindication. I shall very speedily be in a condition to furnish you with Money, to supply you according to your desire. I hope Mr. Bayly will be very civil to you; and let him be assured, he shall in a most exact measure be satisfied, and have a Requital for his Obligation. My dearest, always praying for our happy meeting,

I rest, Your most
affectionate Husband.

May the 11th.
1663.

John Carleton.

Other



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Other of my Husband's Friends came to Visit me in the *Gate-house*, (of the many hundreds of other I shall say nothing) one of them said, Madam, I am one of your Husband's Friends and Acquaintance, I had a desire to see you, because *I* have heard of your breeding. Alas, said I, *I* have left that in the City amongst my Kindred, because they want it.

Another in his discourse delivered as an Aphorism, *That marriage and hanging went by Destiny.* I told him, *I had received from the Destinies Marriage, and he in probability might Hanging.* To waive many others of the like nature.

My innocence furnished me with several of those answers,
and

and repartees to the mixt sort of visitants, who either for novelty or designe came to trouble me. I was advised indeed to seclude my self from such company, but because there might be no disadvantage pretended by reason I kept close, and evidence might be puzzled, not having seen me in so long a time, as afterwards at my Tryal might have been suggested, I gave all persons the freedom of my Chamber. But for the Nobler sort, I may in some measure thank my stars, that out of this misfortune extracted so much blifs, as the honour of their acquaintance, which otherwise at large I had been in no capacity to attain.

The

At the time of the Sessions of the Peace for *London* and *Middlesex* being arrived, I was conveyed from the Gate-house to Newgate; where by the civility of the Master of the prison I had lodgings assigned me in his own house, which adjoyns to the Sessions-house-yard; and there I was publickly seen by all comers: that my enemies might want no advantage of informing their witnesses of my Person, Age and condition, and so square their Evidence: but my innocence and my good Angels preserved me from the worst of their malice.

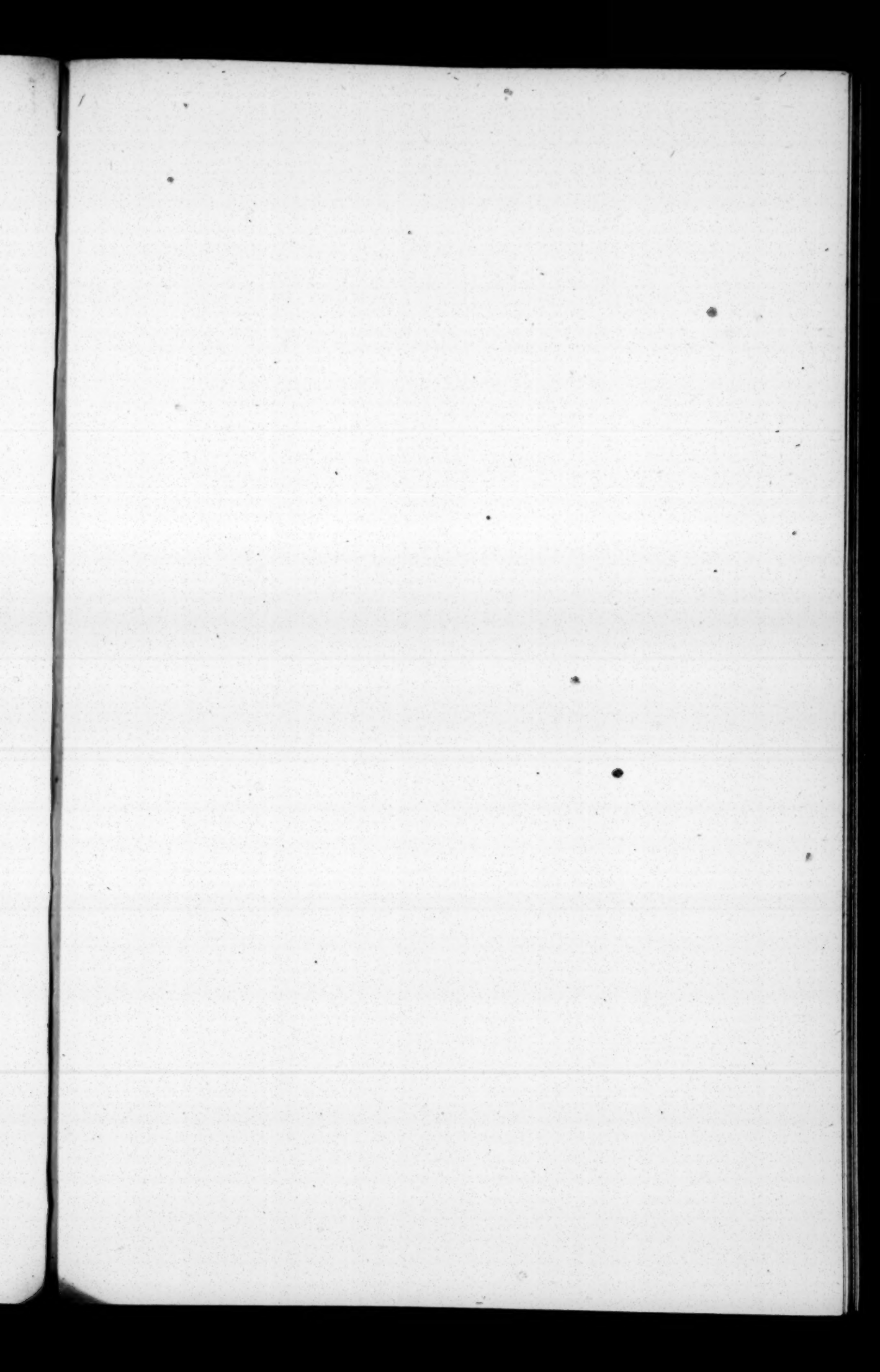
From thence, on Wednesday, *June* the third, in the evening, the first day of the Courts sitting in the *Old-Bayly*, I was brought down to the Bar: and there an Indictment upon my Arraignment was read against

me,

74 *Madam Mary Carleton.*

me ; to which I pleaded Not guilty : and, as instructed by my friends, and a good conscience, (being altogether ignorant of the Laws and Customs of this Kingdome) put my self for my Triall upon God and the Country, without making any exception, or ever so much as examining what my Jury were.

And because they approved themselves men of honesty, judgment and integrity, and did me so much justice, I can do no less then take occasion here to return them my humble thanks, that they would regard the oppressed condition of a helpless prisoner ; and not give credit to the wicked asseverations of a wretch, who onely swore to the purpose against me : and to let the world know my particular gratitude, I will transcribe into this my *Case*, as one of the happiest and fairest



The Case of 75
fairest remarks therein, the
names of those upright Jurors,
viz.

*William Rutland,
Arthur Vigers,
Arthur Capel,
Tho. Smith,
Fran. Chaplin,
Robert Harvey,
Simon Driver,
Robert Kerkham,
Hugh Masson,
Tho. Westley,
Richard Clutterbuck, and
Randolph Tooke.*

The Indictment was in hæc
verba.

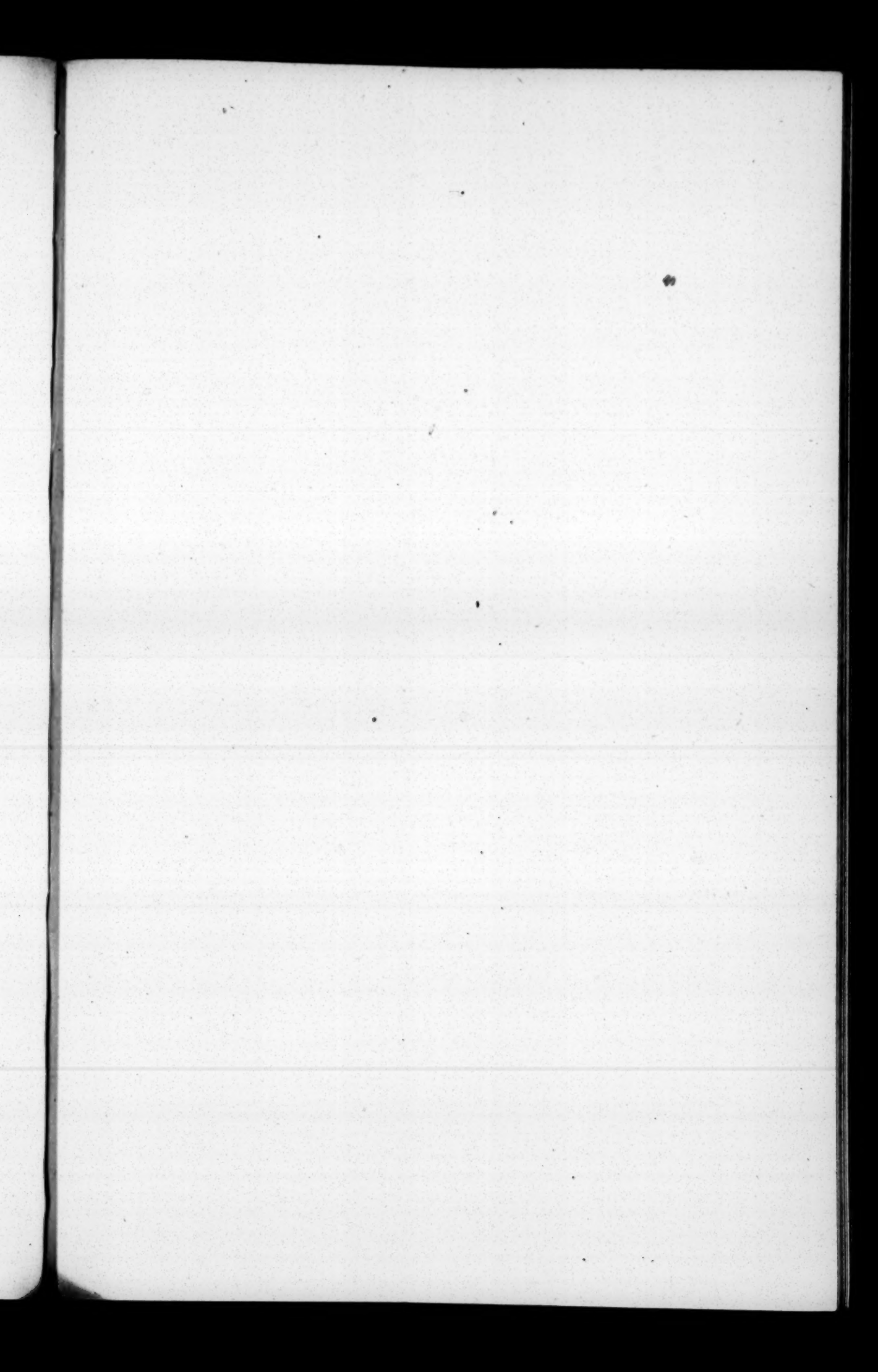
That the said Mary Moders,
late of London Spinster, otherwise
Mary Stedman, the wife of Tho.
Stedman late of the City of Canter-
bury in the County of Kent Shoos-
maker, 12 May, in the Reign of his
now Majesty the sixth, at the Parish
of St. Mildreds in the City of Cant.

76 *marry Carleton.*

in the County aforesaid, did take to husband the aforesaid Tho. Stedman, and him the said Thomas Stedman then and there had to husband. And that she the said Mary Moders, alias Stedman, 21 April, in the 15 year of his said Majesties Reign, at London, in the Parish of Great S. Bartholomews, in the Ward of Farringdon without, feloniously did take to husband one John Carleton, and to him was married, the said Tho. Stedman her former husband then being alive, and in full life: against the form of the Statute in that case provided, and against the Peace of our said Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity, &c.

After which being set to the Bar, in order to my Trial, I prayed time till the morrow, my witnesses not being ready; which was granted: and all persons concerned were ordered to attend at nine of the Clock in the Fore-noon.

Being



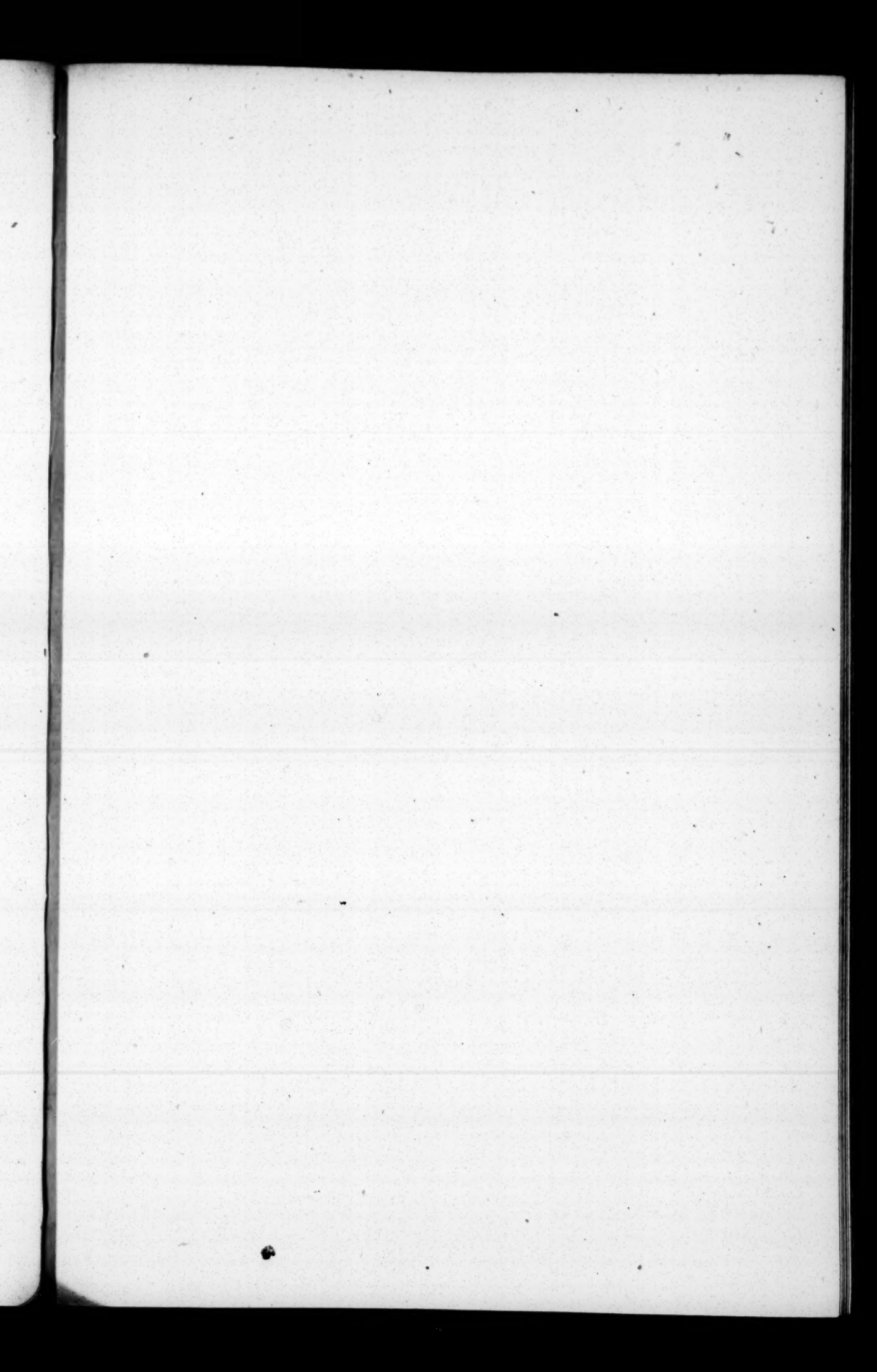
Being returned to my lodging, where some Gentlemen gave me a visit to counsell and advise me; my Husband Mr. *Carleton* came thither to take his leave of me, as I understood afterwards by his complement: but my Keeper knowing of him, thought him not fit company for me, who was one of the causers of my injurious usage: but notice at last being given me of it, I gave order for his admittance, and treated him with that respect which became my Relation to him; though he, to add trouble to me, fell into more impertinent discourses concerning the shortness of my dayes, and speedy preparation of Repentance for another world; and that he would pray for me, and the like: to the which I replied, Pray my lord let none of those things trouble you; I thank God I am as well as ever

78 *Madam Mary Carleton.*

in my life, and do of all things least fear hanging: and as for your prayers, are you righteous or no? if not, they will so little availe me, that they will not profit your self. Hereupon a Gentleman to break off this discourse drank to him in a glasse of Canary; which my Lord unhand-somely declining to accept, I could not forbear to tell him, I was sorry to see his Lordship's slender breeding could not suffer him to be civill.

Thus the world may see how these mine Adversaries had already swallowed my life and my credit, and devoted them to the Gibbet without redemption: the onely security of all their past injustices towards me. — *Per scelera sceleribus est iter*: they must end as they have begun. Thus the Devill and his imps were here frustrated.

For



For, on Thursday *June* the fourth, I proceeded to Trial, according to appointment; but my fathers bandogs being not ready, my husband came into the Court very spruce and trim, in one of his wedding-suits, and prayed the Court, that in respect his father and his witnesses were not yet come together, or rather had not concinnated their lies to be found in one tale, that the Trial might be deferred for halfe an hour. I could not but smile to see my deare husband labour so to make sure of my death, and with so little regard to pass by his dear Princess without so much as vouchsafing a look to her; as if he were angry at his eyes for having beheld so much already. But to abrupt these thoughts, and to continue the discourse: the Court growing impatient of these un-

80 *Madam Mary Carleton.*

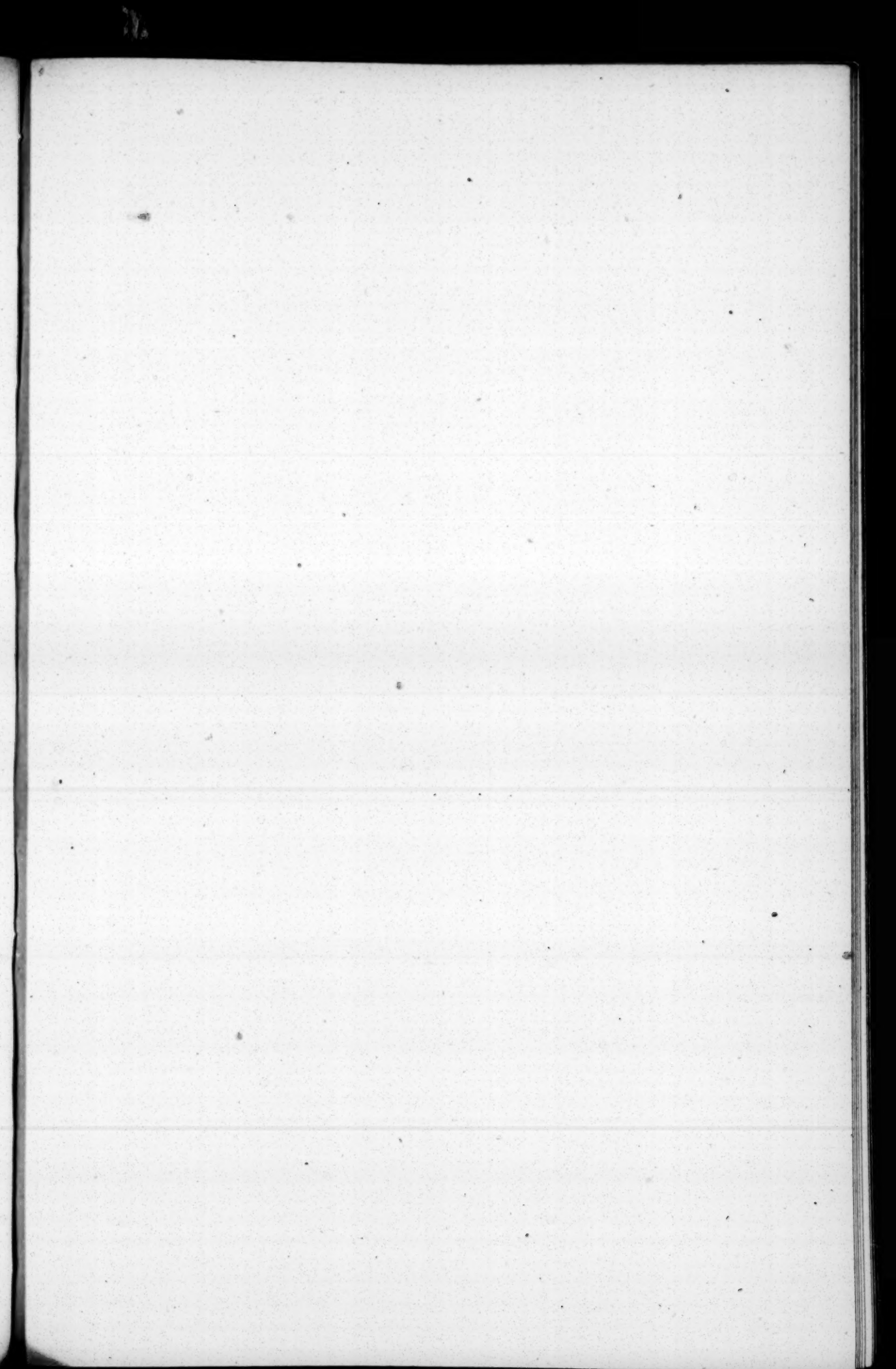
civil delayes, and telling my father-in-law that they were not bound to wait on him or his witnessses; they were now produced before them, and sworn; and with old *Carleton* himself were six in number: namely, *James Knot*, one that will almost cleave a hair; *William Clark*, and *George Carleton* her brother-in-law; Mr. *Smith* the Parson, and one *Sarah Williams*; which for fuller information of the world, I will give, with a review of the whole Trial, according to the exactest copy of it, which was taken in short-hand at my desire.

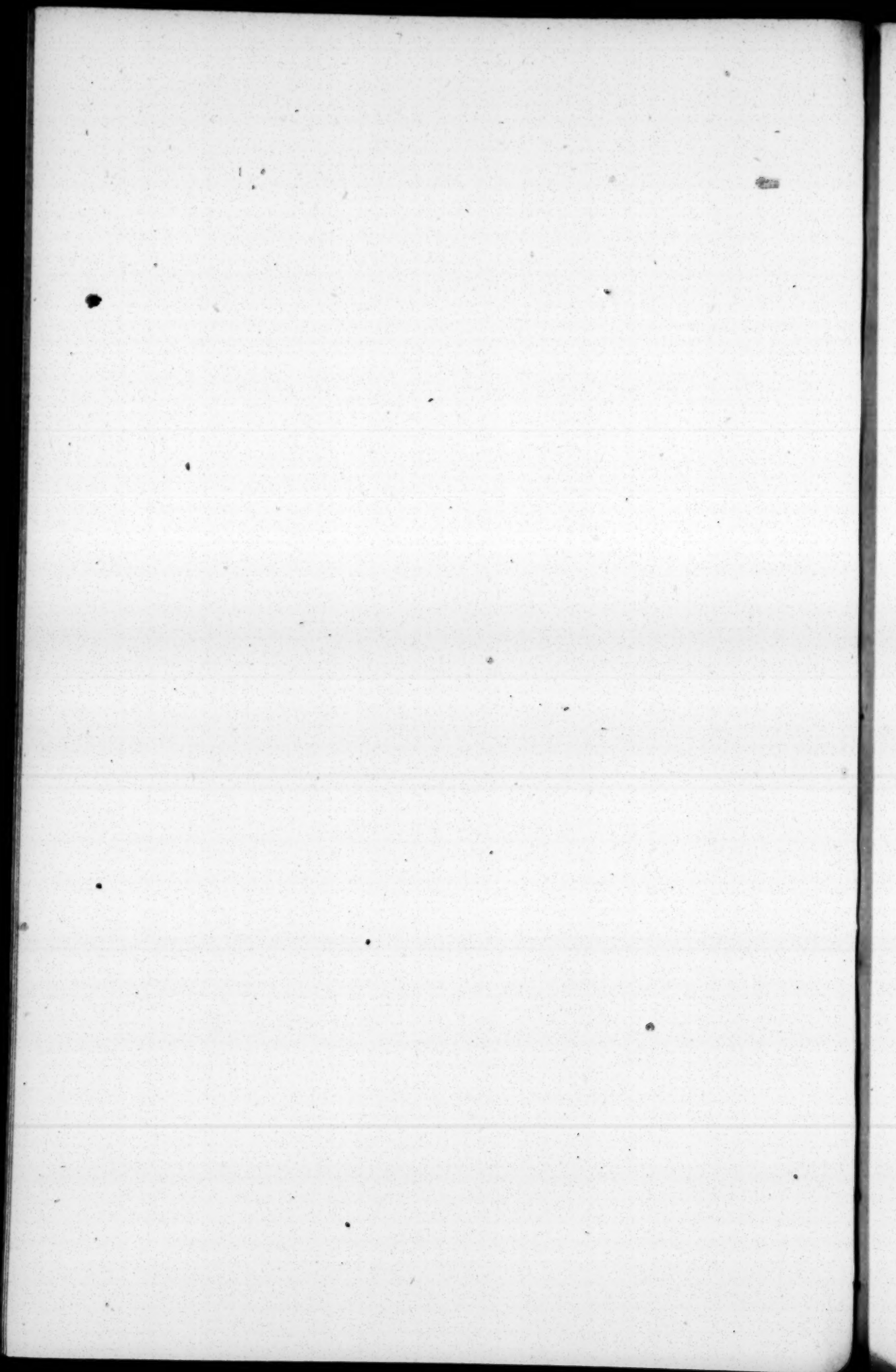
James Knot. My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury, I gave this woman in Marriage to one *Thomas Stedman*, which is now alive in *Dover*, and I saw him last week.

Court. Where was she married?

Knot. In *Canterbury*.

Court.





Court. Where there ?

Knot. In *St. Mildreds*, by one *Parson Man*, who is now dead.

Court. How long since were they married ?

Knot. About nine years ago.

Court. Did they live together afterwards ?

Knot. Yes, about four years, and had two children.

Court. You gave her in marriage, but did the Minister give her to her husband then ?

Knot. Yes, and they lived together.

Jury. Friend, did you give this very Woman ?

Knot. Yes.

Court. What company was there ?

Knot. There was the married Couple, her sister, my self, the Parson and the Sexton.

Court. Where is that Sexton ?

Knot. I know not, my Lord.

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Court. You are sure they were married in the Church, and this is the woman ?

Knot. Yes, I am sure of it.

Court. How long ago ?

Knot. About nine years ago.

Court. Did you know this woman before the Marriage ? and how long ?

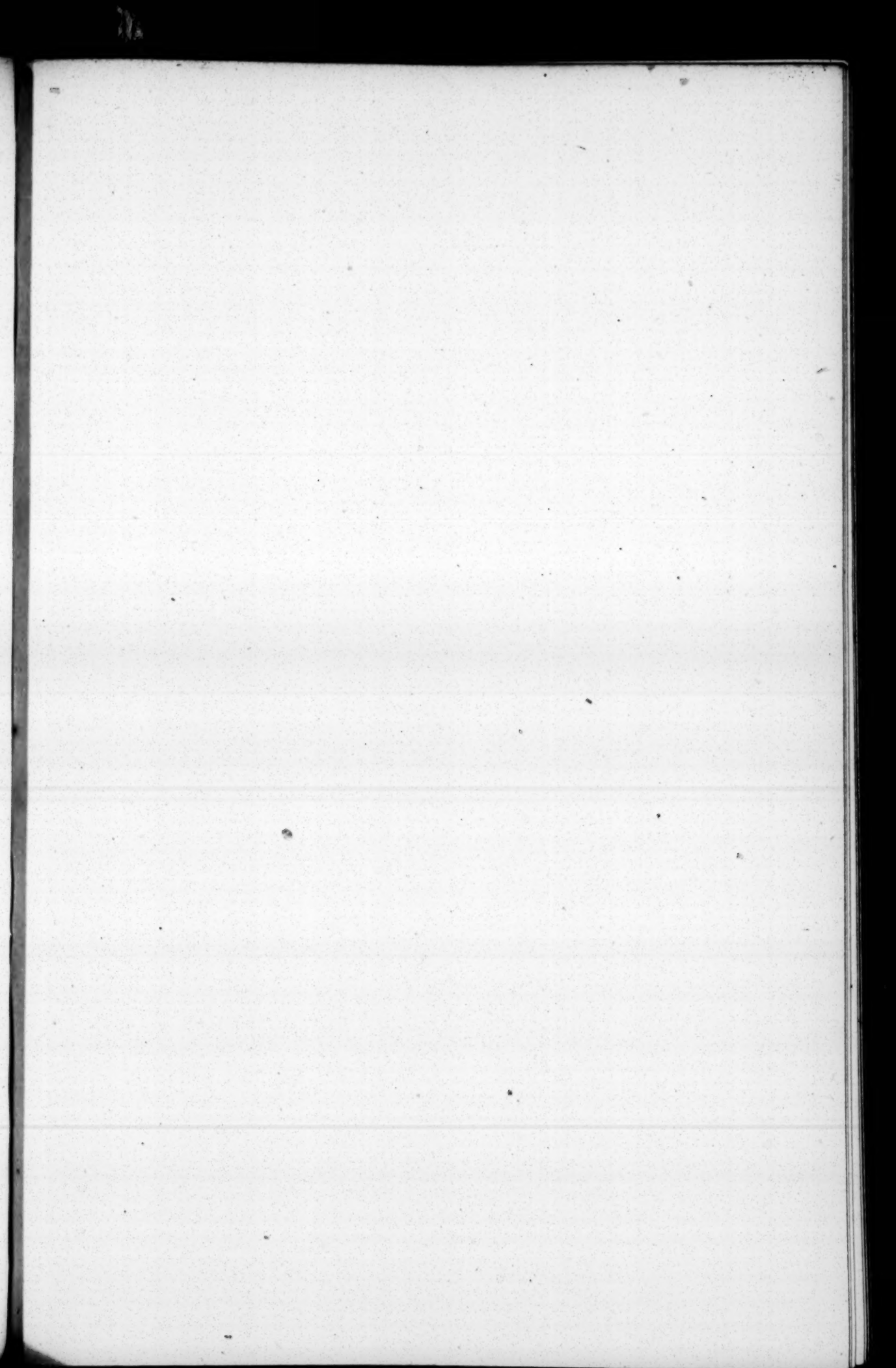
Knot. Yes, I knew her a long time ; I was an Apprentice seven years near her Mothers house in *Canterbury*.

Court. Then she's no forreign Princess ? Of what Parentage was she ?

Knot. I did not know her own father (and in that he might be believed) but her father-in-law was a Musitian there.

Court. You see her married : what words were used at her marriage, and in what manner ?

Knot. They were married according to the order of the Land,
a.



a little before the Act came forth touching Marriages by Justices of the Peace.

Court. Was it by the Form of Common-Prayer, any thing read of that Form?

Knot. I did not take notice of that: I was but a young man, and was desired to go along with them.

William Clark being sworn, said, My Lord, I was last week in *Dover*, in company with this *James Knot*, and *Thomas Stedman*, and he the said *Stedman* did own that he did marry one *Mary Morders*, a daughter of one in *Canterbury*, and that *Knot* gave her, and that he had two children by her, and declared his willingness to come up to give evidence against her, but wanted money for his journey: And I have understood that a person here in Court was of a Jury at *Canterbury*, at a Trial.

84 *Madam Mary Carleton.*

Triall between *Day* and *Mary Stedman* at the Bar for having two husbands.

Court. Was she cleared?

Clark. I cannot tell.

Young *Carletons* father sworn.
My Lord, I was at *Dover* the last week on Wednesday; I saw the husband of this woman, and the man acknowledged himself to be so; and did say that *James Knot* was the man that gave her in marriage to him.

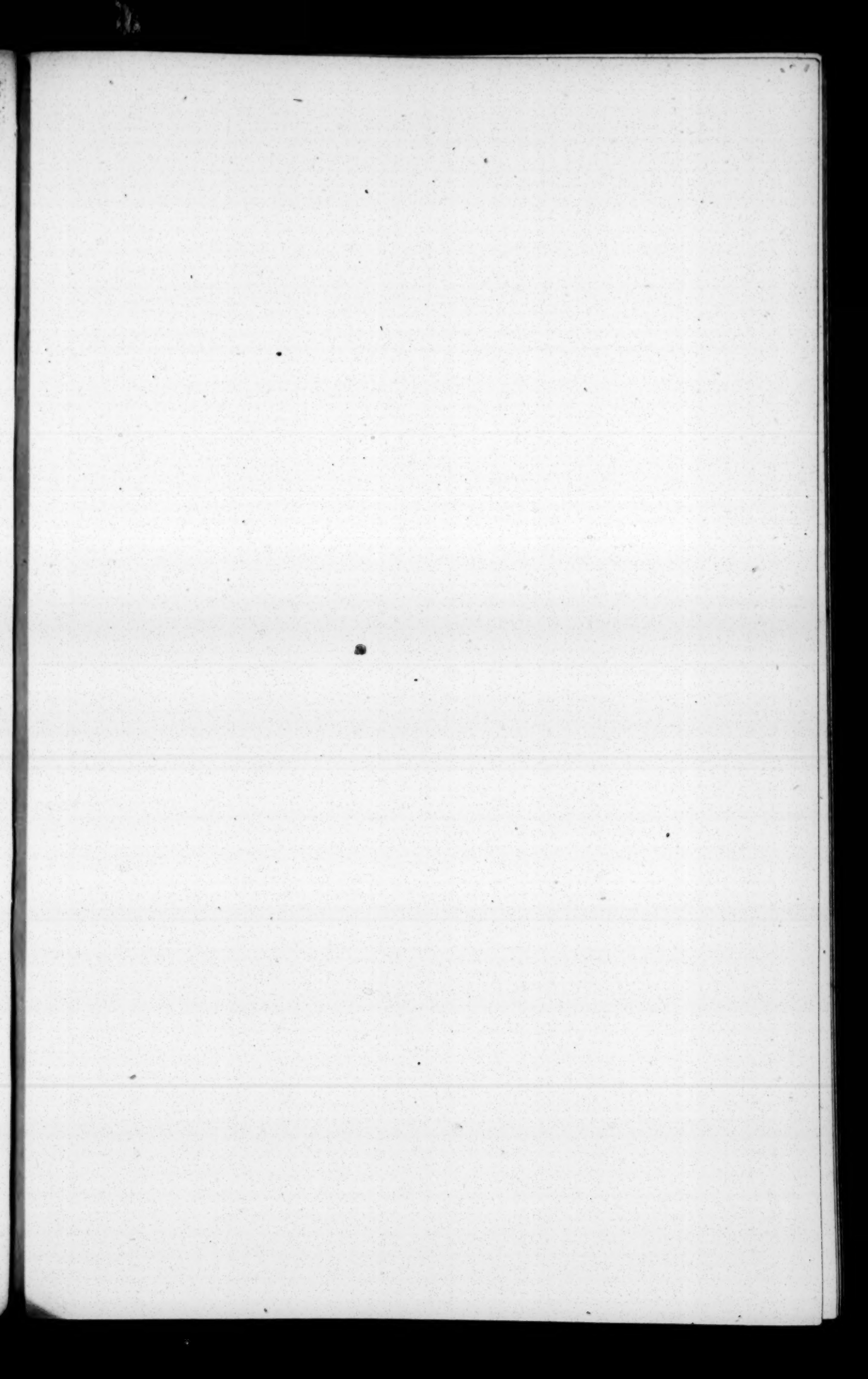
Court. Where is this man her husband? Hearsays must condemn no man: what do you know of your own knowledge?

Carleton the Elder. I know the man is alive.

Court. Do you know he was married to her?

Carleton. Not I, my Lord.

Sarah Williams. My Lord, This Woman was bound for *Barbadoes*, to go along with my husband,



band, and she desired to lodge at our house for some time, and did so; and when the ship was ready to go, she went into *Kent* to receive her means, and said she would meet the ship in the *Docks*; and missing the ship, took boat and went to the ship. After severall dayes remaining there, there came her husband with an Order and fetched her ashore, and carried her to *Dover-Castle*.

Court. What was his name that had an Order to bring her on shore again?

Sarah Williams. His name was *Thomas Stedman*.

Court. Have you any more to prove the first marriage?

Carlton the Elder. No, none but *Knot*; there was none but three, the Minister dead, the Sexton not to be found, and this *Knot* who hath given Evidence.

Court. What became of the
two

86 *Madam Mary Carleton.*

two children, *Knot*?

Knot. They both died.

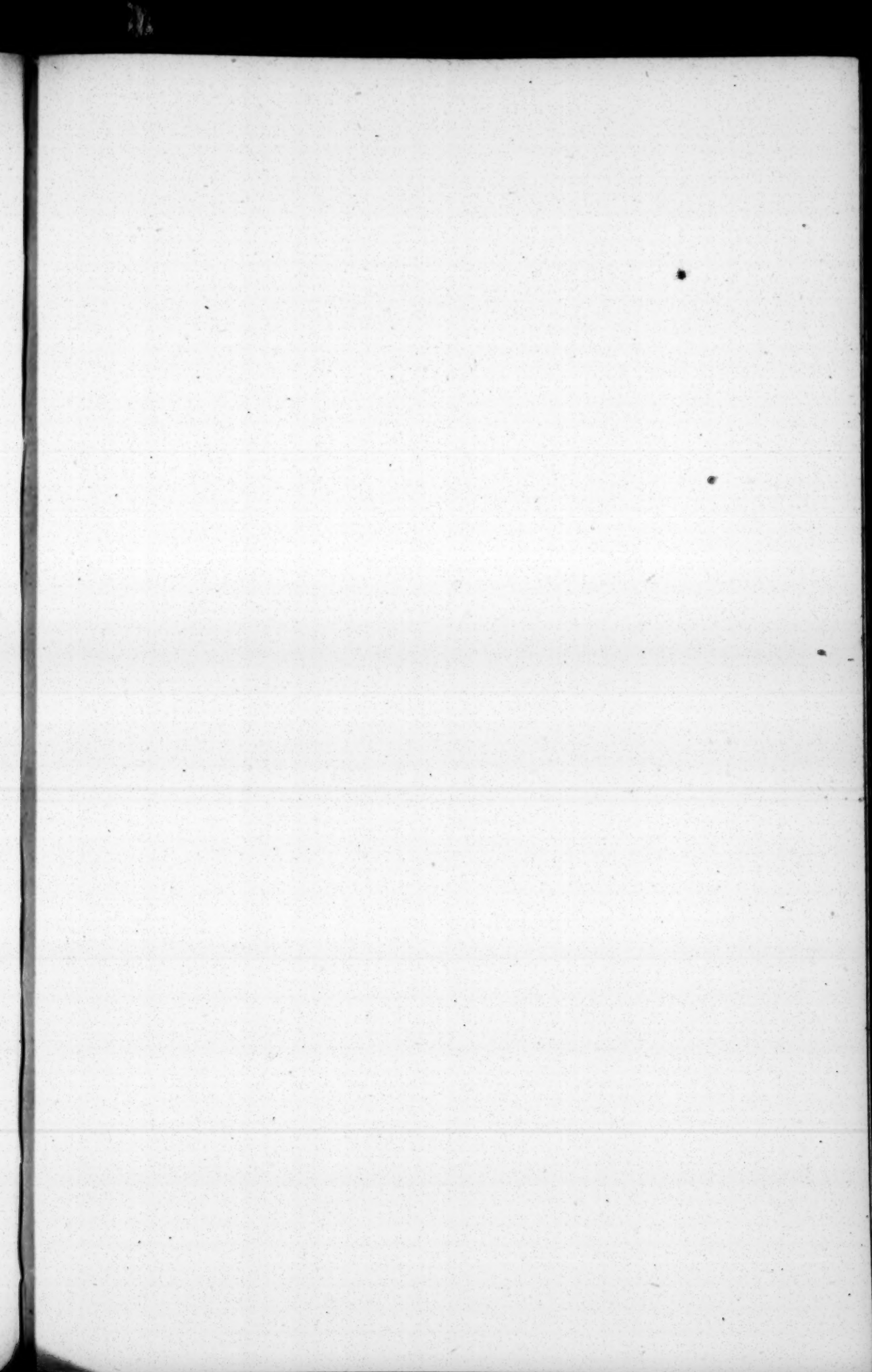
Carlton the Elder. *Stedman* said in my hearing, that he had lived four years with her, had two children by her, and both dead; five years ago last *Easter* since she left him.

Court. Mr. *Carlton*, VWhat have you heard this VWoman say?

Carlton. My Lord, she will confess nothing, that pleases him.

Court. Mr. *Carlton*, did you look in the Church-Register for the first marriage?

Carlton. I did look in the Book, and he that is now Clerk, was then Sexton (just now not to be found;) he told me, that Marriages being then very numerous, preceding the A&t before-mentioned, the then Clerk had neglected the Registry of this Marriage.



Marriage. If she intended this Trade, she likewise knew how to make the Clerk mistake Registering the Marriage.

Young *Carlton's* brother sworn, who said,

My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury, I was present at the Marriage of my Brother with this Gentlewoman, which was on or about 21 *April*, 1663. They were married at Great St. *Bartholomews*, by one Mr. *Smith* a Minister here in Court, by Licence.

Mr. *Smith* the Parson sworn.

My Lord, all that I can say, is this, that Mr. *Carlton* the younger told me of such a business, and desired me to marry them; they came to Church, and I did marry them by the Book of Common Prayer.

Court. Mr. *Smith*, are you sure that is the Woman?

Parson.

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Parson. Yes, my Lord, it is ; I believe she will not deny it.

Prisoner. Yes, my Lord, I confess I am the Woman.

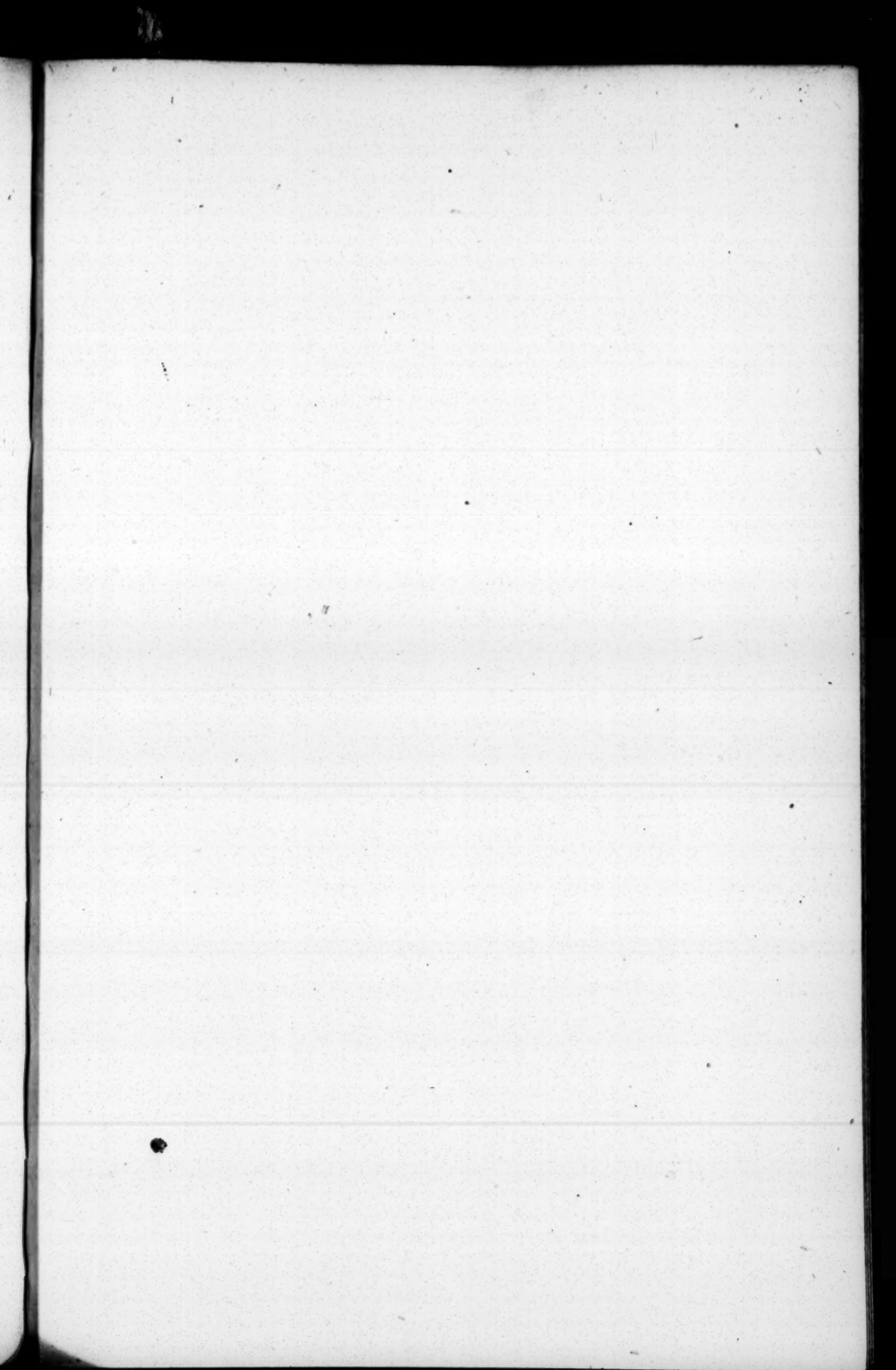
Court. Have you any more witnesses ?

Carlton. We can get no more but *Knot* to prove the first Marriage ; the last is clear.

Judge Howel. VWhere is *Knot* ? Remember your self well what you said before. You say, you know that VWoman at the Bar ; that you had known her a great while ; that she was born near you in *Canterbury* ; that you were present at her marriage ; that *Parson Man* married them ; that none were present but your self, the married couple, *Parson, Sexton*, and her sister.

Knot. Some others came into the Church, but none that I knew ; I am sure none went with her, but those I named.

Court.



Court. Who gave her in marriage ?

Knot. I did.

Court. How came you to do it?

Knot. I was *Stedmans* shopmate, and he desired me to go along with him.

Court. Were her Parents then living, or no ?

Knot. Her Mother was.

Jury. How old are you ?

Knot. Two or three and thirty years.

Jury. How long ago was this marriage ?

Knot. About nine years since.

Court. Then he was twenty three, and might do it. What is your Trade of life ?

Knot. I am a Cordweyner, otherwise, a Shoemaker ; *Stedman* was so too : we wrought both together.

Jury. We desire to know whether she had a Father and Mother

90 *Madam Mary Carleton.*
ther then living.

Knot. She had a Father-in-law.

Court. Did you know her Mother ?

Knot. Yes.

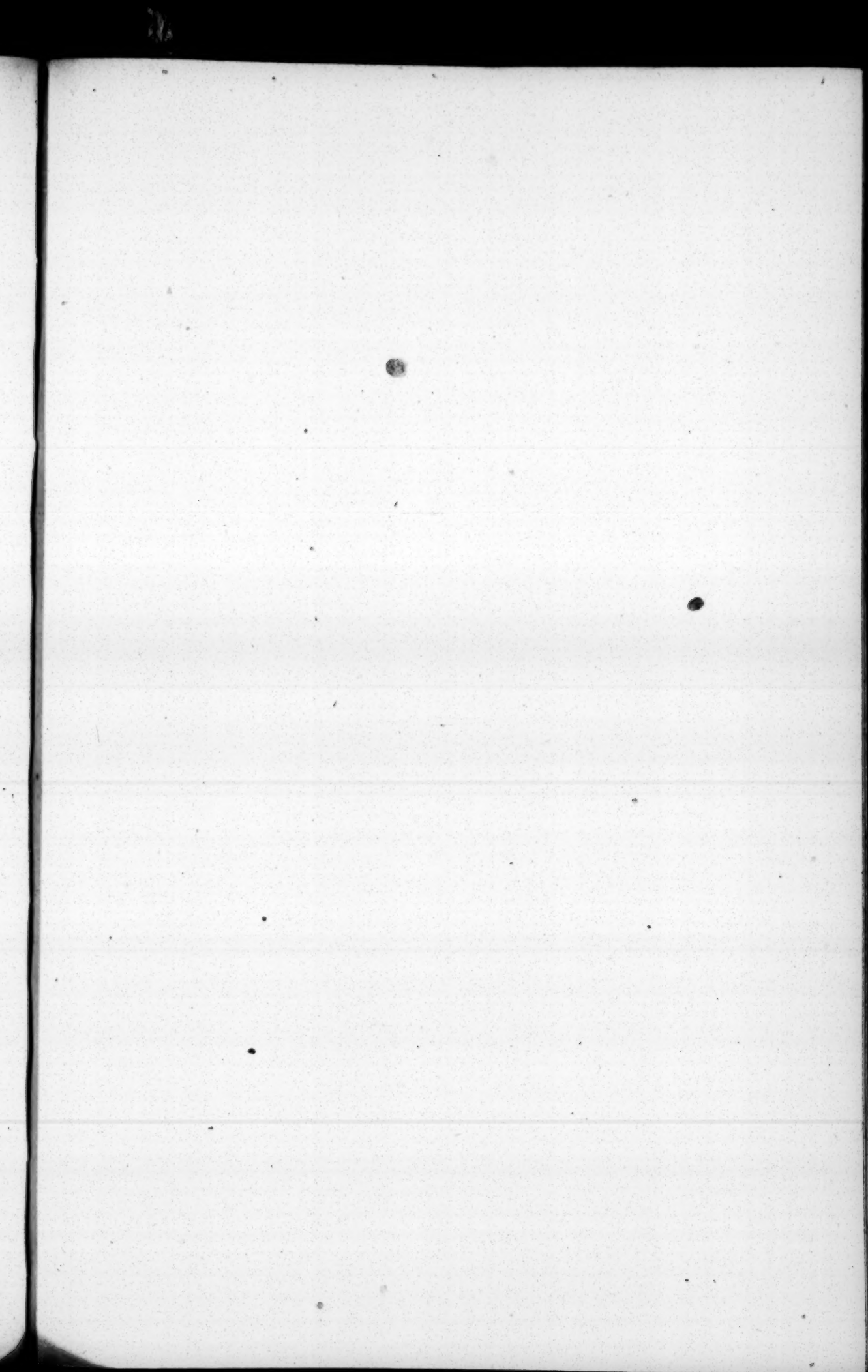
Court. How long before that Marriage did her own Father die ?

Knot. I did not know him. He said so before indeed.

Court. What age was she when married ?

Knot. I suppose nineteen or twenty.

Prisoner. May it please your Honours, and Gentlemen of the Jury, you have heard the several witnesses, and I think this whole Country cannot but plainly see the malice of my Husbands Father against me ; how he causelessly hunts after my life : when his Son, my Husband, came and addressed himself to me, pretending

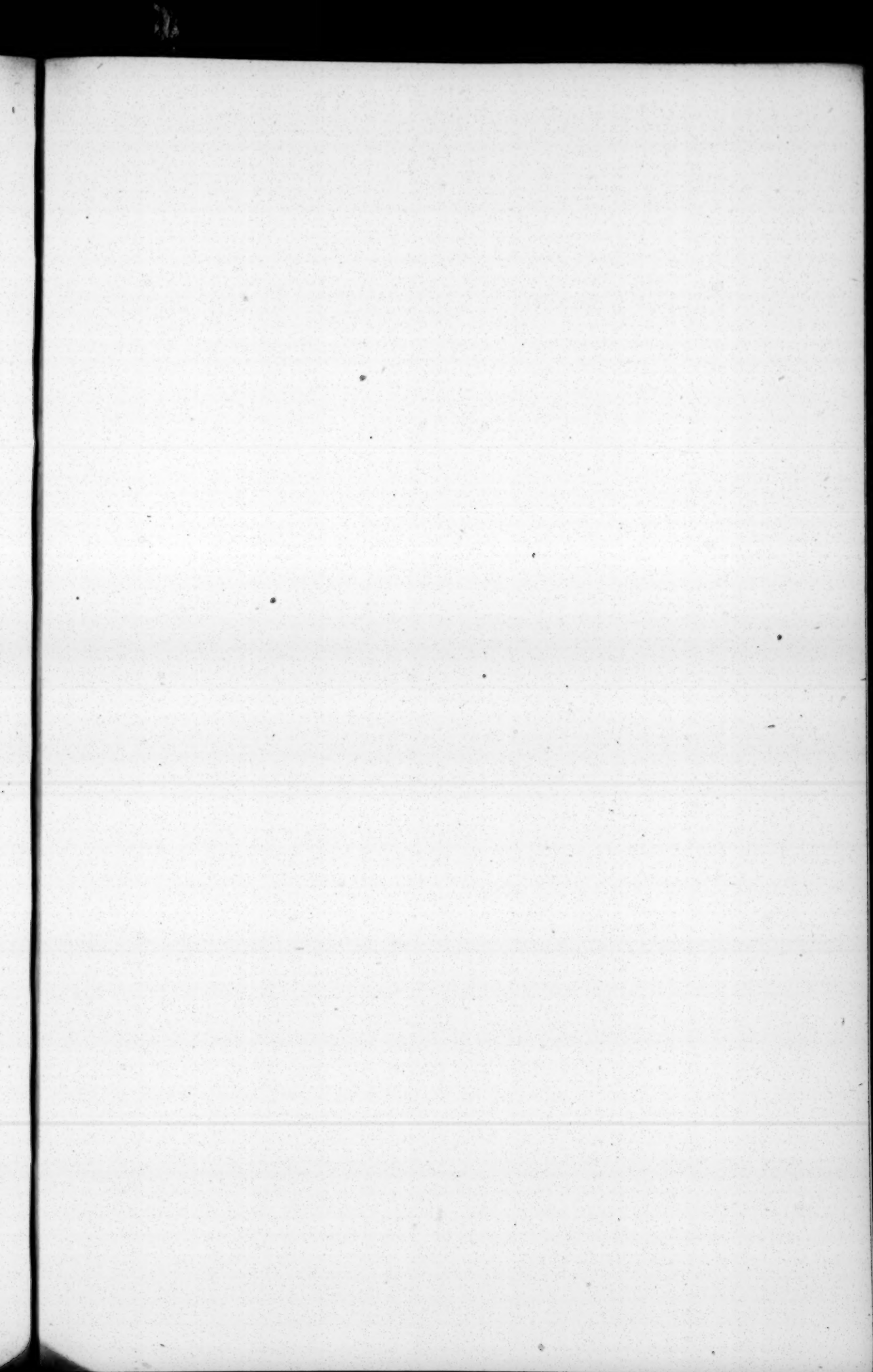


ding himself a person of honour, and upon first sight pressed me to marriage; I told him, Sir, said I, I am a stranger, have no acquaintance here, and desire you to desist your suit: I could not speak my minde, but he (having borrowed some thred-bare Complements) replied, *Madam*, your seeming virtues, your amiable person, and noble deportment, renders you so excellent, that were I in the least interested in you, I cannot doubt of happiness: and so with many words to the like purpose, courted me. I told him, and indeed could not but much wonder, that at so small a glance he could be so presumptuous with a stranger, to hint this to me; but all I could say, would not beat him off: And presently afterwards he having intercepted my Letter, by which he understood how my affairs stood,

92 *Madam* Mary Carleton.

stood, and how considerable my means were, he still urged me to marry him; and immediately by the contrivance of his friends, gaping at my fortune, I was hurried to Church to be married; which the Parson at first did without Licence, to secure me to my Husband, and sometime after had a Licence.

And my Husbands Father afterwards considering I had a considerable fortune, pressed me, that in respect I had no relations here, and because, sayes he, we are mortall, you would do well to make over your Estate to my Son your Husband; it will be much for your honour, satisfaction of the world, and for which you will be chronicled for a rare woman: and perceiving he had not baited his hook sufficient (with some fair pretences) to catch me then, he and his Son,
who



who were both willing to make up some of their former losses in circumventing me of what I had, they robb'd me of my Jewels, and Clothes of great value, and afterwards pretended they were counterfeit Jewells; and declared, that I had formerly been married to one at *Canterbury*, which place I know not; and this grounded on a Letter (of their own framing) sent from *Dover*, with a description of me; that I was a young fat woman, full breasted; that I spoke severall languages; and therefore they imagined me the person; and so violently carried me from my lodging before a Justice of Peace, only to affright me, that I might make my Estate over to them. The Justice having heard their severall allegations, could not commit me, unless they would be bound to prosecute me; which

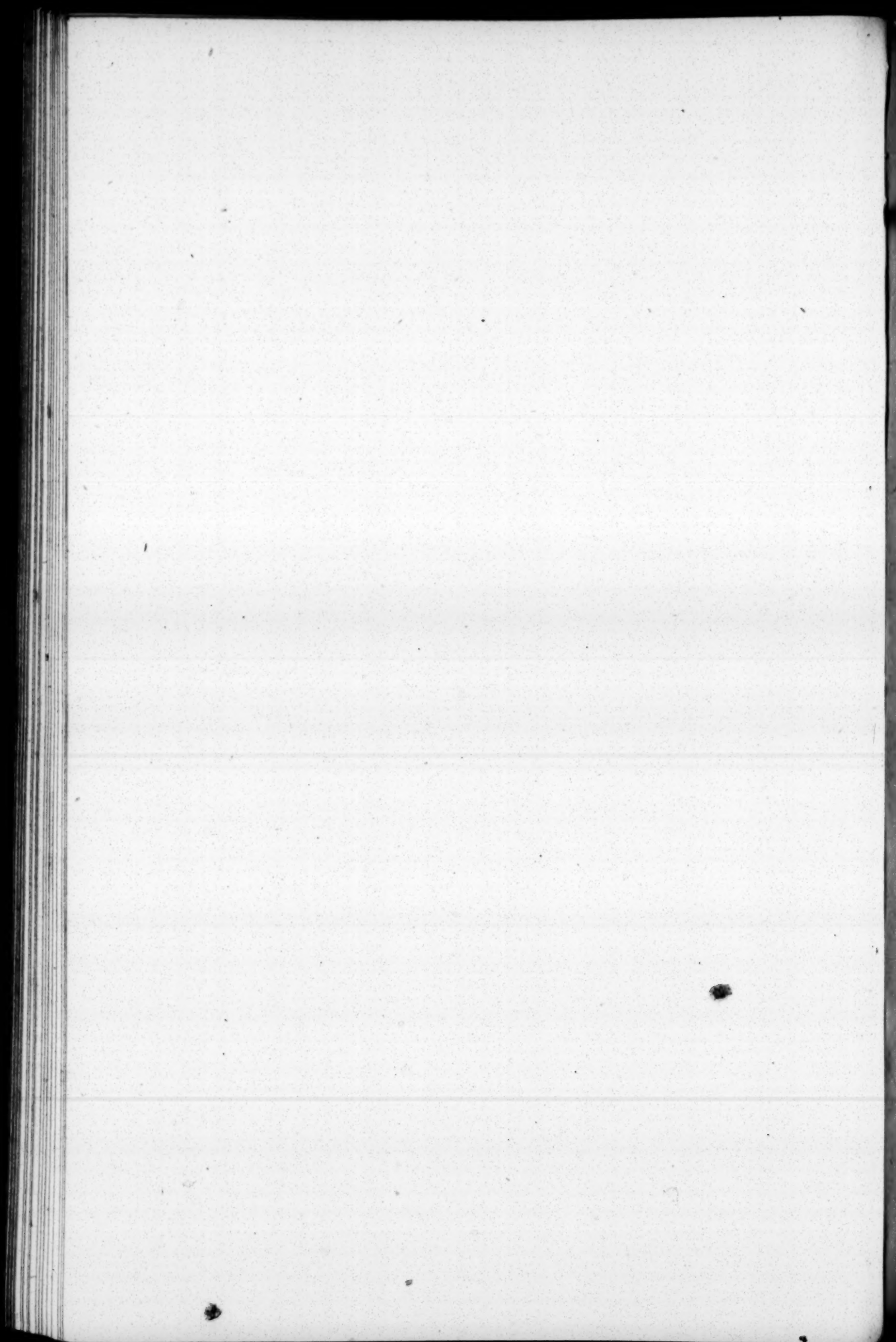
94 *Madam Mary Carleton.*

which my husband being unwilling to, the Justice demanded of his Father whether he would prosecute me, saying, they must not make a fool of him; and so after some whisperings, the Father and his Son were both bound to prosecute; and thereupon I was committed to prison: And since that, these people have been up and down the Country, and finding none there that could justify any thing of this matter, they get here an unknown fellow, unless in a prison, and from thence borrowed, you cannot but all judge, to swear against me. My Lord, were there any such Marriage as this fellow pretends, methinks there might be a Certificate from the Minister, or place; certainly if married; it must be registred: but there is no Registry of it, and so can be no Certificate, no Minister

ster nor Clerk to be found : and if I should own a marriage, then you see that great witness cannot tell you, whether I was lawfully married, or how? but it is enough for him (if such a poultry fellow may be believed) to say, I was married. I was never yet married to any but *John Carlton*, the late pretended Lord : But these persons have sought alwayes to take away my life, bring persons to swear against me, one hired with five pounds, and another old fellow perswaded to own me for his Wife; who came to the prison, and seeing another woman, owned her, and afterwards my self, and indeed any body. If such an old inconsiderable fellow had heretofore wooed me, it must have been for want of discretion, as *Carlton* did for want of money; but I know of no such thing. Several

ral scandals have been laid upon me, but no mortall flesh can truly touch the least hair of my head for any such like offence: they have framed this of themselves. My Lord, I am a stranger, and a forreigner; and being informed there is matter of Law in this Trial for my life, my innocence shall be my Counsellor, and your Lordships my Judges, to whom I wholly refer my Cause. Since I have been in prison, several from *Canterbury* have been to see me; pretending themselves (if I were the person as was related) to be my school-mates; and when they came to me, the Keeper can justify, they all declared that they did not know me.

Court. Knot, You said she lived near you at *Canterbury*; What woman or man there have you to prove she lived there?



Madam Mary Carleton. 97

there? have you none in that whole City, neither for love of Justice nor Right, will come to say she lived there?

Knot. I believe I could fetch one.

Court. Well said, are they to fetch still?

Prisoner. My Lord, I desire some Witnesses may be heard in my behalf.

Elizabeth Collier examined. My Lord, my Husband being a Prisoner in the *Gatehouse*, I came there to see my Husband, and did work there a dayes; and there came in an old man, his name was *Billing*, he said he had a wife there; says Mr. *Baley*, Go in and finde her out; and he said I was his wife, turned my hood, and put on his spectacles, looks upon me, and said I was the same woman his wife; and afterwards said I was not, and so

F

to

to others : I can say no more.

Jane Finch examined.

My Lord, there came a man and woman one night, and knockt at my door; I came down, they asked to speak with one *Jane Finch*. I am the person, said I. We understand, said they, you know *Mistriss Carleton* now in prison. Not I, said I, I onely went to see her there. Said they, Be not scrupulous : if you will go and justifie any thing against her, we will give you 5 *l*.

Court. Who are those two ?

Finch. I do not know them, my Lord.

Mr. Baley examined.

My Lord, there has been at least 500. people have viewed her ; severall from *Canterbury*, fourty at least that said they lived there ; and when they went up to her, she hid not her face at all,

Madam Mary Carleton. 99
all, but not one of them knew
her.

Court. What Country-woman are you?

Prisoner. I was born in *Cullen*
in *Germany*.

Court. Mr. *Carleton*, How came
you to understand she was married
formerly?

Carlton the elder. I received a
Letter from the Recorder of *Can-*
terbury to that purpose.

Prisoner. They that can offer
five pound to swear against me,
can also frame a Letter against
me: they say I was nineteen
years of age about nine years
ago, and I am now but one and
twenty.

Court. Mr. *Carlton*, you heard
what *Knot* said; he said she lived
near him four years a wife: why
did not you get some body else
from thence to testifie this?

Carleton. Here was one *Davis*
F 2 that

that was at her Fathers house,
and spoke with him —

Court. Where is he?

Carlton. I know not; he was
here.

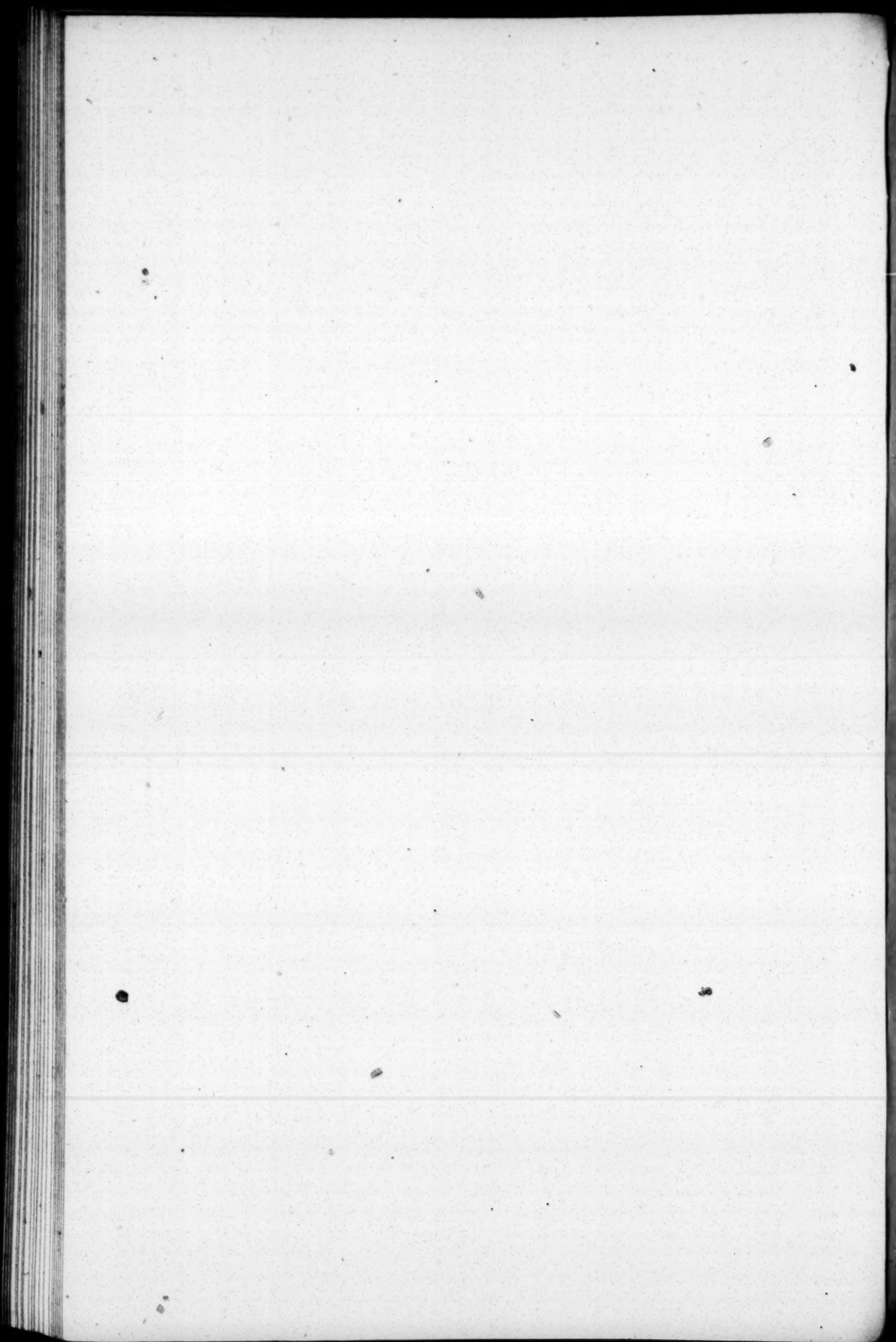
Court. You were telling the
Court of a former indictment
against her, what was that for?

Carlton. She was indicted for
having two husbands, *Stedman* of
Canterbury her first Husband, and
Day of *Dover* Chirurgion, her
second Husband. The indict-
ment was Traversed the year be-
fore His Majesty came to *Eng-
land*, she was found not guilty.

Court. who was a. that Trial?

Carlton. One here in **Court**
was of the Jury; but that party
said there was such a trial, but
knows not that this is the Wo-
man.

Judge Howel. Gentlemen of
the Jury, you see this indictment
is against *Mary Moders*, other-
wise



Madam Mary Carleton. 101

wife *Stedman*, and it is for having two husbands, both at one time alive; the first *Stedman*, afterwards married to *Carlton*, her former husband being alive. You have heard the proof of the first marriage, and the proof doth depend upon one witness, that is *Knot*; and he indeed doth say, he was at the marriage, gave her, and he names one *Man*, the Parson that married her, that he is dead; none present there but the married couple that must needs be there, the Parson, this witness, her sister, and the Sexton; that he knows not what is become of the Sexton. All the Evidence given on that side to prove her guilty of this Indictment, depends upon his single testimony. It is true, he says she was married at *Canterbury*, but the particulars, or the manner of the marriage he doth not well

remember; whether by the Book of Common-Prayer, or other-ways: but they lived together for four years, had two Children. If she were born there, married there, had two children there, and lived there so long, it were easie to have brought some body to prove this; that is all that is material for the first marriage.

For the second, there is little proof necessary: she confesses herself married to *Carlton*, and owns him; the question is, Whether she was married to *Stedman*, or not?

You have heard what defence she hath made for her self, some Witnesses on her behalf; if you believe that *Knot*, the single witness, speaks the truth so far forth to satisfy your conscience, that that was a marriage, she is guilty. You see what the circumstances

Madam Mary Carleton. 103

stances are, it is penal; if guilty, she must die; a Woman hath no Clergy, she is to die by the Law, if guilty. You heard she was indicted at *Dover* for having two husbands, *Stedman* the first, and *Day* the second. There it seems by that which they have said, she was acquitted; none can say this was the woman: that there was a Trial, may be believed; but whether this be the woman tried or acquitted, doth not appear. One here that was of that Jury, says, there was a Trial, but knows not that this is the Woman. So that upon the whole, it is left to you to give your Verdict.

The Jury went forth, and after some short Consultation, returned to their places.

Clerk. Mary Moders, alias Stedman, hold up thy hand; look up-

F 4

on

on her Gentlemen, what say you?
Is she guilty of the Felony
whereof she stands indicted, or
not guilty?

Foreman. Not guilty. And
thereupon a great number of
people being in and about the
Court, hissed and clapped their
hands.

Clerk. Did she flie for it?

Foreman. Not that we know.

Afterwards I desired, that my
Jewells and Cloaths, taken from
me, might be restored to me :
The Court acquainted me, that
they were my husbands, and that
if any detained them from me,
he might have his remedy at
Law. I then charging old Mr.
Carleton with them, he declared
they were already in the custody
of his Son her husband. So that
if they had been counterfeits, as
they all along pretended, I doubt
not

Madam Mary Carleton. 105

not but that they would have had so much confidence and justice for themselves, as to have acquainted the Court with so much, to the bettering the envy and scandal of their gross abuses: but concerning the real worth of those Jewels, I shall have further occasion to speak presently.

Being thus fairly acquitted, I was carried back to my former Lodgings; where, among other visits, I had one from my Husbands near Friend, who but two hours before had swore and threatned my death: yet to feel my temper in this disappointment of their bloody designe against me, he was sent with an impertinent story into my company, where he began to glaver, and offer me a glass of Wine; (above which their generosity yet never reached :) but my pas-

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sions

sions were so high at the very sight of him, that I bid him get him out of the room, and not trouble me with his company: which he did, by slinking from me, as the Dog in the Proverb that had lost his Tayl.

They thought being thus freed I would have ranted and vapoured, and gave them some further unwary hint of my condition, as being now out of danger: but I (that knew my self not to be in any) was transported with no such exultation, but kept the same equanimity and constant tenour; no less affected with the triumphs of Justice, then those of my Honour and Reputation.

Hitherto they have not found any thing unbecoming the person I am, or what they made me to be, except in my necessities, and that frequency of company
to

Madam Mary Carleton. 107

to which they have subjected me by false imprisonment, and other scandals; which I could not better remove, then by my bare-fac'd appearance to all comers: so that that which other women hide and mask for modesty, I must shew and set to publick view for my justification.

On the sixth of *June*, being Saturday, I was discharged of my confinement, (having been all along most civilly used by the Masters and Keepers of both the Prisons where I was in durance; but indeed rather in the suburbs of a Prison, then a Prison it self; for which I am their Debtor) and did expect that my husband, by whom I was committed, that is, by his Relations, would have brought me out; and I stayed there to that purpose two days after my acquittal and purgation: but no such matter; they had
got

got my Estate, I might do what I would with my person; the groundless flanders they had cast upon that, should yet serve turn to infame my bed; and the Counterfeit, though after conviction of the falshood thereof, must be separated and divorced: but the counterfeit Jewels they'll *Hug* and *Embrace*, and part withal at no rate.

And therefore in stead of my lawful and true Husband, they endeavoured to put a counterfeit upon me: but too much are they stupified, in stead of being sublimed in this mysterious way of cheat, which as in melancholy people, works still in their fancy that they sent me the most ridiculous Dotard for Husband-Gentleman-Usher, that ever woman laid eye on: a Fellow that could be no younger then brother to Mother *Shipton*, and had his
Pro-

Madam Mary Carleton. 109

Prophetical Spectacles to fit him for a Legacy.

It was one of my pretended husbands, by whom a Bill was preferred (but not found, as I said before) by *Billing* the Brick-layer. Upon *Whitsun-Monday*, the 8th of *June* instant, the said *Billing* came to *Newgate*, demanded of the Keepers to deliver his Wife to him. The Turn-Key, and other subordinate Officers of the Goal, told him, They had none of his Wife. He insisted upon it, and withstood all denial, mentioned my name, and the particulars of my Trial. The Keepers remembring there was a former mistake of the same person, given in Evidence on my behalf at the Trial, called one *Grizel Hudson* a Convict, a pretty Woman, and in good habit: the Turn-Key asked *Billing*, Whether this was his Wife?

Wife? *Billing* replied, *Yes*; and askt her, Why she did not come to him upon his first sending for her? She told him, That the Keepers would not permit her to stir out of the Prison, in regard her Fees were not paid. *Billing* said, He would pay the Fees; and whispered her in the Ear, saying, That they had a minde to hang her (meaning the *Carletons*) but he would not prosecute her. True it was, he had put in an Indictment against her, but he could not help that. Well *Moll*, said he to her, *Have ye all your things?* She said, *Yes*. But, said he, *Moll, why do you stay here amongst such wicked company, Rogues and whores? I see their Irons about their Legs.* Why, said she, *I have left some Linnen engaged in the Cellar.* To the Cellar the Keeper carried them both; and there *Billing* left a note under his hand,

Madam Mary Carleton. III

to pay five shillings to the Taps-
ter: VVhich Note he hath to
produce, to satisfie any that shall
make further Enquiry in this
particular.

He further said, That she had
cheated him of fourty pounds,
and that he would pawn the
Lease of his house, rather then
she should want Money, al-
though she was a wicked Rogue,
if she would but live with him:
she promised she would. He told
her he would give her a Sky-co-
lour'd Silk Petticoat and Wast-
coat, and a Podesway Gown,
new *Holland* for Smocks, and all
other things necessary. *Billing*
turning himself to the Compa-
ny there present, said merrily,
That she had cost him much before
when he married her, but he never
lay with her, but he had kist her, and
felt her a hundred times. Billing askt
her again, if she would leave these
wicked

wicked Rogues, and go along with him. She said, she had another Debt to pay : He askt what it was ; She said , twenty pounds to such a one, a stranger then present, unto which person he gave a note to pay 20 l. in one moneth after the Date thereof : (it's more then probable he will be made so to do.)

He further said to her, *That now it will trouble me to pay all this Money, and then you to run away from me in a short time.* Withall, said he, *Moll, You need not, for I have a better estate then the young man that tried you for your Life.* So gave the particulars of his Estate, what in Money, Houses, Leases and Land. He added moreover, that he did love her out of measure, notwithstanding she had done him other mischiefs, then what he had before mentioned. She askt him, what they

Madam Mary Carleton. 113

they were? He said, She had stolen from his Daughter a Knife and a wrought Sheath, a Handkercher, and a Seal'd Ring. With that, the standers by told him, that he was mistaken, that this *Grizell Hudson* was not the person. He swore it was, and that he knew her well enough; that he saw her in the *Gate-house*, and that she knew what passed between us there: *But*, said he, *Moll, Thou art a cunning Rogue; I desire nothing of thee but to be honest, and live with me*; the which she promised, and he parted with great content thereupon.

This affront and indeed disgrace I put to the other; but am very sorry the poor old Fellow should be abused so by my Relations; the second part or worse of the cheat of a cunning Gypsie, who having inveagled his affections, and set him on
edge

edge by some lascivious gesture, entangled him in a marriage; and for the better port and celebration of the Nuptials, procured him twenty pound from a friend of hers, for which he gave Bond, (the Duplicate of this story) and when bed-time came, and the rusty Bridegroom had prepared himself, he ran away in the dark with most of the money, and some odd things, as Linen, and the like, and never after appeared, till those skilful Conjurers of *Grey Fryars* (*in quo peccamus, in eo plectimur*; where my fault was in deserting my first station among the Religious, from the like demolished place am I punished) raised up my white name, and made me personate the baseness of that Imposture.

To proceed : I might now very well be said to be set at liberty,

Madam Mary Carleton. 7 115

berry, having no where to go, or where to betake my self : for the Verdict did not reach to give me possession of my Husband, whose Wife *I* was declared to be, (the Jury telling my young Lord, upon his asking of them the Verdict, as they were coming through the Garden of their Sessions-House into the Court, *That he must make much of his Princess, and keep her to himself* ;) Nor was it easie to avoid the trouble of twenty several Courtships for Lodgings, which *I* well considered might give further occasion of reproach, and abuse of my Credit.

But Mr. *Carleton* not appearing, which gave me suspicion of some further designe, I took Lodgings in *Fullers Rents*, where in privacy I resolved to wait the reduction of him to better and honest thoughts ; and that
when

when they his friends had all prejudice laid aside, and considered the duty and obligation that lay upon him, they would have restored and returned him to me. But this neither had its designed end, though the danger that I threatned his father with, brought him to me.

This was on Sunday in the Evening, *June* the sixth, when he came to me, accompanied with *Mr. George Hewyt* his Master, a Barrister of *Grays Inne* in *Coney-Court*; where after some discourses, and perseverance of my resolved manner of proceeding against his Father in the same method, and at the same Bar where he had arraigned me; he did most submissively supplicate me, and adjure me by all respects to him, falling upon his knees to move me the sooner, that I would promise him not to prosecute

Madam Mary Carleton. 117

cure his father for my Jewels, or any other account : adding moreover, That if I did it, he should presently murther himself ; with such-like cowardly Bravado's as he had used to the over-ruling of my affections, when he pretended he would do an hundred more mischiefs to himself, if I would not consent to marry him.

And now he resumed his first kindneses, in hope I would do what he intreated ; kissed me, and offered his embraces: though I could not so easily admit such danger into my bosome ; having so lately felt the viperous sting: but this loving humour, like a time-serving passion, soon abated by the interposition of Mr. Hewyt.

I do suppose, that if he had been alone, and out of the custody and tuition of that person,

son, he would have stayed with me all night, and perhaps for the future; but that person who hath surfeited may be, and hath had too much of a woman, had now so little respects for our sex, as to curse it in generall: but let him beware, as froward and as great a woman-hater as he is, lest he expiate those Maledictions, by some notable feminine revenge a steeping and preparing for him.

Next day I sent a Letter to my husband, and left it for him at Master *Hewits* Chamber: but through his means, as I can conceive no otherwise, I received no word of any answer; so that I resolved once for all to go and make a demand of my said goods and Jewels of old Mr. *Carlton*; which I did on *Fryday* night, the 19th of *June*, at his house at *Gray-Friars*; and knocking at Door,

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Dore, he himself asked who was there : I answered, Your Daughter when a Princess, but now your sons wife : he demanded my business ; I told him I came to demand my Jewells, and other things he had taken from me, and also my husbands Person. He replied in short, the old Gentlewoman pulling him back from further discourse, That for the Jewels, my husband had them; and for himself, he was gone.

There being no more to be said or done, I bid them look to their hits, and departed : having on all occasions, after so many injuries sustained, proffered a reconciliation, being willing to cohabit with him, and have left no means unattempted to bring us together, that the world might see I am not such a loose irregular leud woman as I am slandered

ed to be, by my carriage and demeanour in that relation of a wife, which title I am more ambitious of then any other yet put upon me : but since it must be otherwise, I doubt not so prudently and innocently to behave my self, as I shall not want a husband, much less the trouble of so impertinent and fickle a person as my husband, whom I would willingly exchange for my Jewels, and give him liberty to look after another Princess where he can finde her.

And now for that *Hocus Pocus*, the delaying of those counterfeit Jewels, as they talked, I shall make it no difficulty to prove that those Gems they had of me were none of their Bristol-stones, or such-like trumpery : for not long after my tryal, they were offered in *Cheap-side* to the view of a Goldsmith, and he demanded

Madam Mary Carleton. 121

manded what they might be worth; who having steadily and considerately lookt them all over, said, they were worth 1500*l*. At which the Trustee, or Fiduciary, in whose hands they were, askt the Gold-smith if he was mad, or knew what he said. Yes, that I do, replied he; and will presently lay you down so much money for them, if you have power to sell them: whereupon my Gentleman put up his counterfeit ware with a more counterfeit face, saying, he came only to try his skill, and departed.

And now let all the world judge of the Cheat I have put upon this worshipfull family of the *Carletons*. I have of theirs not a thred, nor piece of any thing, to be a token or remembrance of my beloved Lord, which I might preserve and lay up as a sacred relique of a per-

G

son

son dear to me (I think indeed the dearest that ever woman had.)

But it may be they intend to furnish my Lord with this portable and honourable furniture to the second part of this *Gusman-story* ., against he shall knight-errant it abroad ; and having found the way, marry some other great forreign Lady, and in stead of Boys whooping and hallowing at him here , be revered and adored by subjects, as his great spirit alwayes divined and suggested to him he should be some-body, though to little purpose : but I hope to prevent that designe, and to have speedy redress against all this fraud and violence that hath been acted against me.

And now I have concluded the Narrative, and I hope to the satisfaction of the world : and
it

Madam Mary Carleton. 123

if there be any thing not so elegantly and clearly expressed as my cause requires, let it be known it is my fathers, not my fault, which hath in some places disturbed and muddied my fancy, and in others reserved a hiding place and obscurity for my pursued honour.

I hope the ingenuous will pardon and admit of this defence, considering the nature of it. No man is bound by any law to set forth more then what he is directly interrogated and questioned to; and there I have for my innocence sake exceeded. And for the ignorant and malicious, let them wonder and slander on; and when they shall give me worthy occasion, which is not in the capacity of their shallow brains, or in their dishonest intentions, to a further vindication; that is, when my relations shall

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have

have returned me what they took from me, and leave me *in statu quo*, by any handsome expedient, I shall not faile of making this discourse most evident demonstration, and descend to such undeniable prooffe of every particular here, that shall make their impudence and rash folly one of the leudest stories of the Age.

The world usually and frequently judges as it likes and affects, and is altogether swayed by interest and humour; and even by that, amidst all those industrious calumnies, I dare stand or fall. Let my quality and condition alone, and he is not weighed in the common scales; yet the fair conduct and the harmless example deserves no censure. Let both alone, my sex is to be pittied and respected, and my person not to be hated. But I will not prostitute my
fame

Madam Mary Carleton. 125

same to them: to his Highness I have appealed, and to him I shall go. Not doubting but what the strictness and nicety of the Law doth at present withhold him, we shall by his gracious protection of innocence be freed from such incumbrances; and some easier solution found for those intricacies, then my Lawyers can at present expedite.

I am advised howsoever to prosecute my adversaries in the same manner, and at the same Bar where they arraigned me for a suspicion, of a real suit of Felony, for that riot against the publick peace committed upon my person: which I am resolved to do, in case I receive not better satisfaction from them before the Sessions: nor shall my husbands dilating intreaties and perswasions befool me any longer.

*Either love me, or leave me,
And do not deceive me.*

The fashions and customs here are much different from those of our Country, where the wife shares an equal portion with her husband in all things of weal and woe, and can *liber intentare*, begin and commence, and finish a suit in her own name; they buy and sell, and keep accounts, manage the affairs of household, and the Trade, and do all things relating to their severall stations and degrees. I have heard and did believe the Proverb, *That England was a Heaven for women*: but I never saw that Heaven described in its proper termes: for as to as much as I see of it, 'tis a very long prospect, and almost disappears to view; It is to be enjoyed but at second hand, and
all

Madam Mary Carleton. 127

all by the husbands title; quite contrary to the custome of the *Russians*, where it is a piece of their Divinity, that because it's said that the Bishop must be the husband of one wife, they put out of orders, and from all Ecclesiastical function such Clergy men, who by the Canon being bound to be married, are by death deprived of their wives; so that their tenure to their Livings and Preferments clearly depends upon the welfare and long life of their yoake-fellows, in whose choice, as of such moment to their well-being, they are very curious, as they are afterwards in their care and preservation of them.

I could instance in many other customes of nearer Nations, in respect to female right and propriety in their own Dowers, as well as in their husbands estates:

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but

but, *cum fueris Romæ, Romano vivite more*. I will not quarrel the English Laws, which I question not are calculated and well accommodated to the genius and temper of the people.

While I mention these customs, I cannot forbear to complain of a very great rudeness and incivility to which the mass and generality of the English vulgar are most pronely inclined, that is, to hoot and hallow, and pursue strangers with their multitudes through the streets, pressing upon them even to the danger of their lives; and when once a cry, or some scandalous humour is bruited among them, they become Brutes indeed. A Barbarity I thought could not possibly be in this Nation, whom I heard famed for so much civility and urbanity. This I experimented the other day in *Fanchurch-*

Madam Mary Carleton. 129

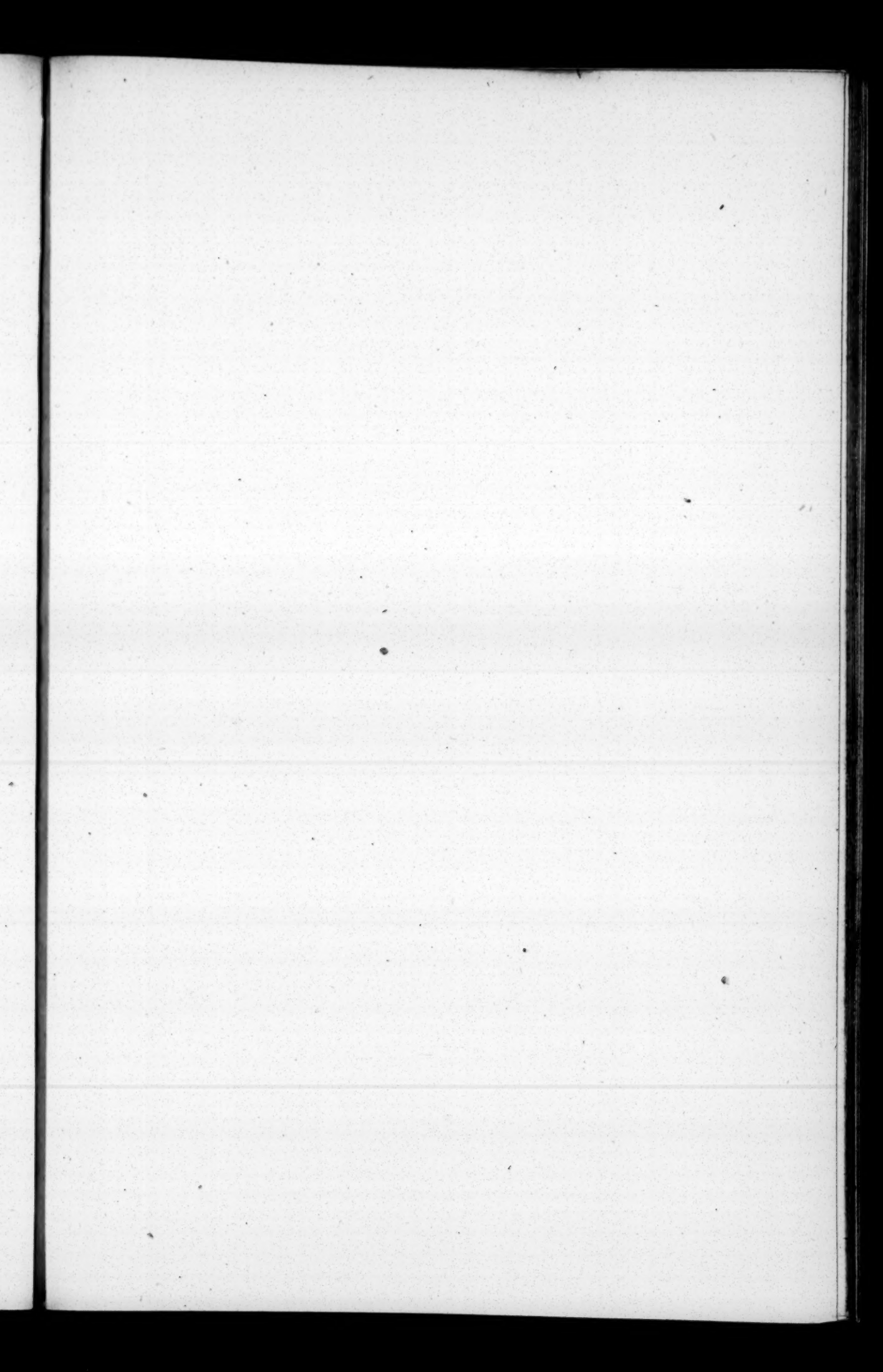
church-street, as I was passing through it upon some occasion, which being noised and scattered among the Prentices, I was forced to bethink of some shift and stratagem to avoid them, which was by putting my Maid into a Coach, that by good hap was at hand, and stepping into an adjoining Tavern; which the Herd mistaking my Maid for me, and following the Coach as supposing me there for the convenience thereof, gave me the opportunity of escaping from them. A Regulation of this kind of uproar by some severe penalties, would much conduce not onely to the honour of the Government of the City, but the whole Nation in general; having heard the French very much complain of the like injuries and affronts: but those to me I may justly place to my husbands ac-

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count.

count, who hath exposed me to the undeserved wonder, and to be a May-game to the Town.

And to his debility and meanness of spirit, I am likewise beholding for some other scandalous Libels and Pasquils divulged upon this occasion of our marriage; chiefly for the Ribaldry of some pitiful Poetry, entituled, *A westminster-wedding*, which equally reflects as much upon himself as me. This tameness of his doth hugely incense me; and I swear, were it not for the modesty of my sex, the bonds of which I will not be provoked to transgress, I would get satisfaction my self of those pitiful Fellows, who by this impudent and saucie scribbling, do almost every day bespatter my honour. At least, I wonder my husband doth not vindicate himself, and assert his own individual Reputation,



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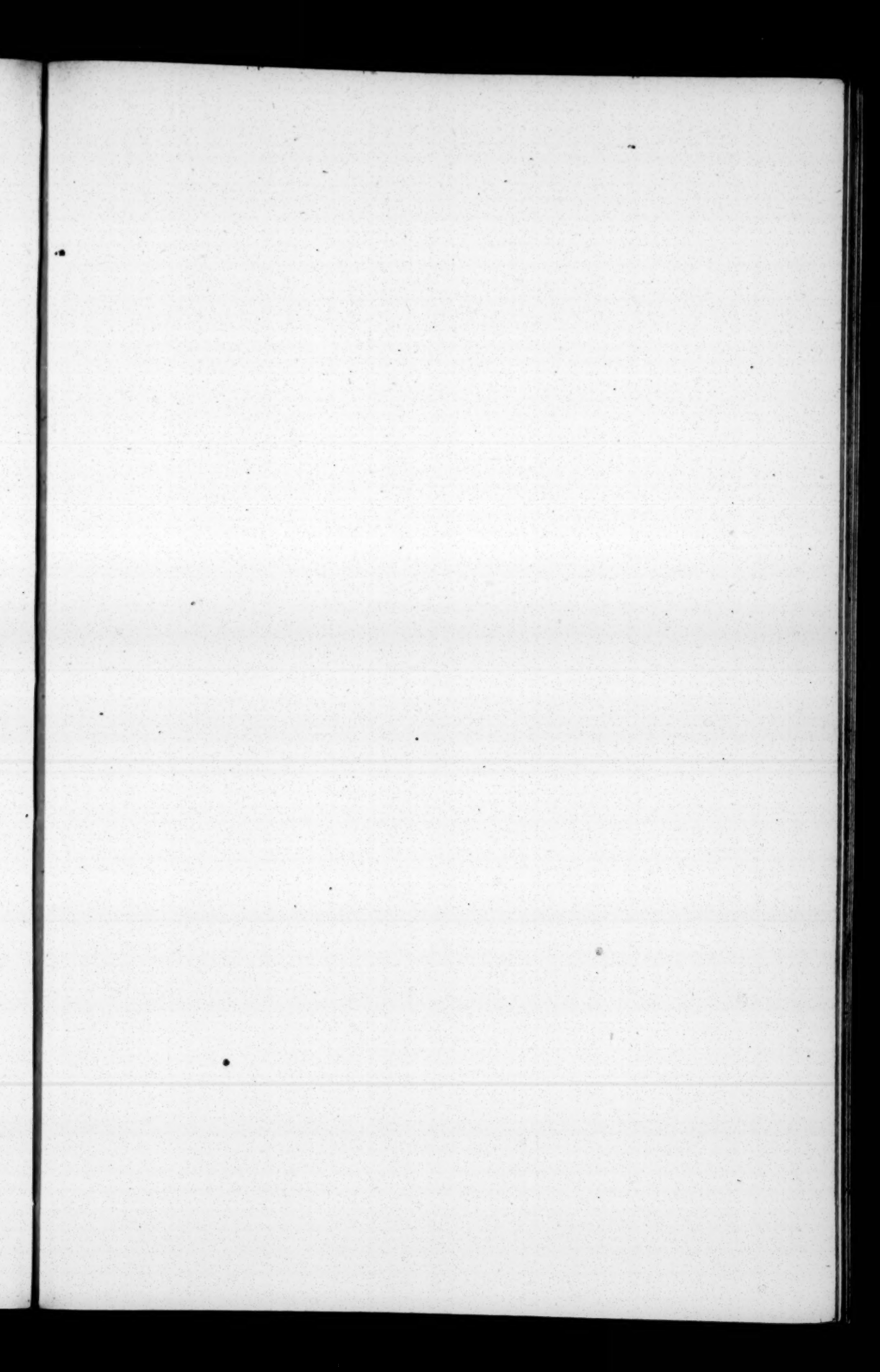
tation, having threatned so much in print against a civil person that formerly & first of all endeavoured to clear and justifie mine.

But when I consider how apt his kindred are to return to their vomit of slandering me, and reckoning the nine days wonder of their great cheat discovered is over, are like those that have eat shame and drank after it; I did the less wonder at his stupidity and senselesness of those indignities done him: and commonly those that have no regard to anothers honour, have as little respect for their own; as he is Master of another mans life, that is a Contemner of his own.

I shall therefore omit all the subsequent sneaking Lyes, raised by the same kindred, when they saw their more mighty and potent Accusations helped forward with such prejudices, noise and
ostent

ostentation, were at once disappointed and blown to nothing: such are those Chimæra's of their framing and fancying, that I was seen in mans apparel, with a Sword and Feather, in designe to do mischief to some body; and that I have used to do so: and so punctual are they in this Lye, as to name both the time and place: that I resolved to set up a Coffee-house, and at last to turn Player or Actor: with an hundred other flams to sully my Name, and of a multitude of the like, to make one or other of those Calumnies and Reproaches to stick upon me.

Whereas on the contrary I do resolve, as soon as my cause is heard, and justice done me by the supreme-power, if I cannot otherwise attain it, to retire and return back, though not immediately to my own home, yet to
make



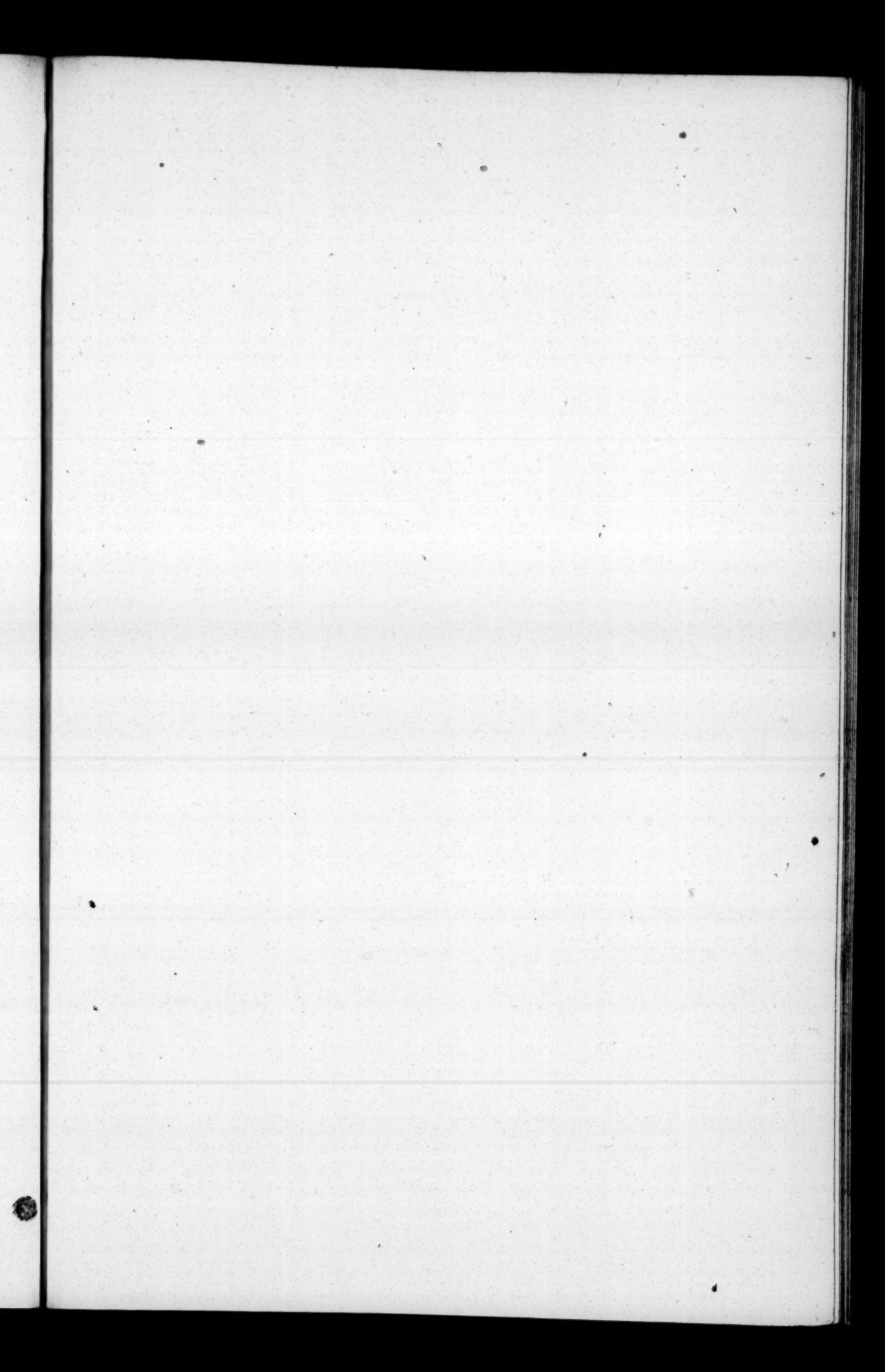
Madam Mary Carleton. 133

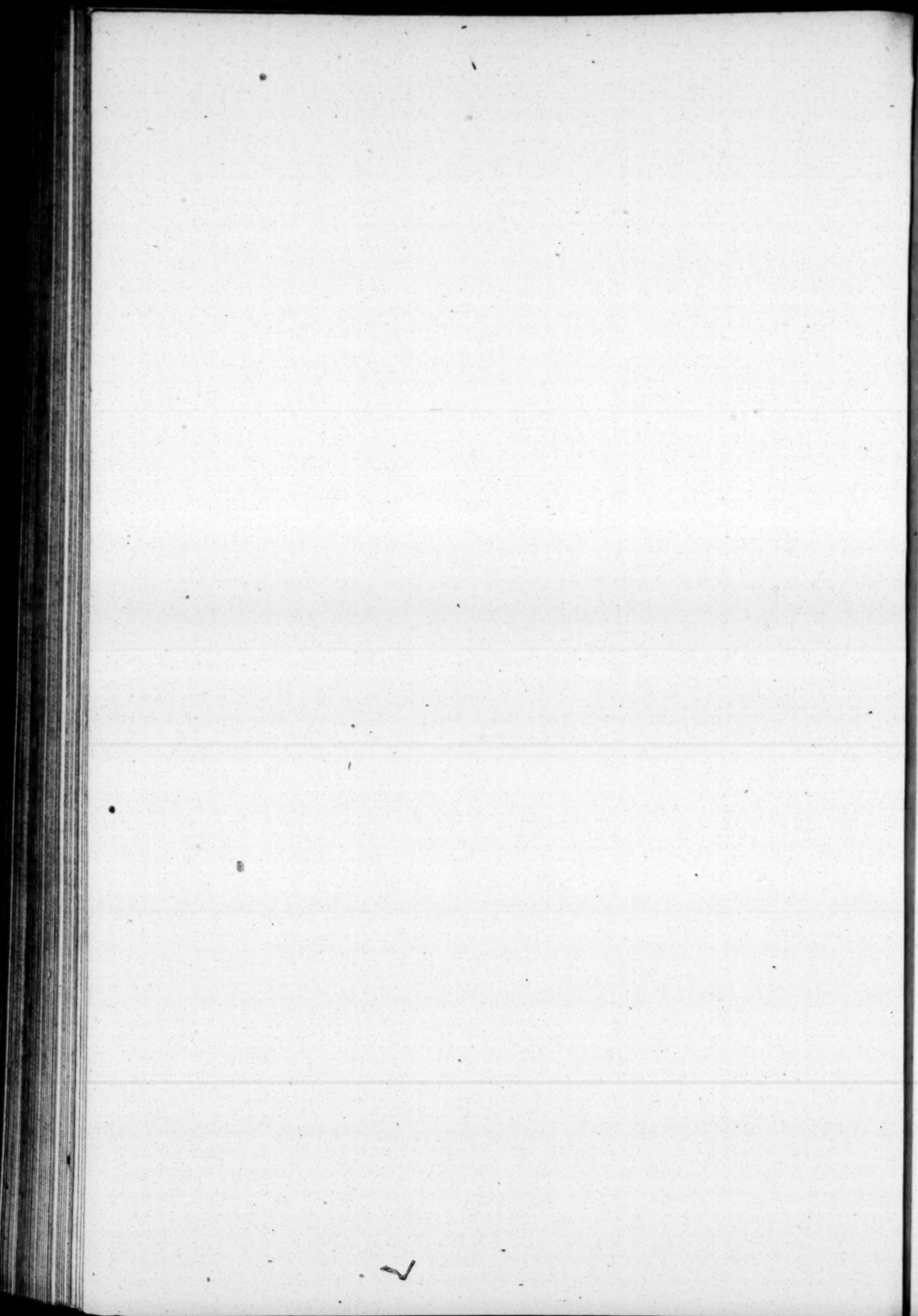
make such approaches at necessary distance for the present, that I might be in a readiness and view of all transactions there, as soon as this bluster shall be so laid here, that I shall not fear the rayl of this Hurricane pursuing me: yet shall I always have my heart, and my Arms open to Mr. *Carleton*, as a person whom for his Person and Naturals I do and shall ever affect, as his wife and my husband, maugre all those practices (as for my part) of rendering us mutually hateful and suspect to each other.

And while I thus open the way to a composure of this unhappy business, and am willing to put up so many private injuries, and publick contumelies and disparagements, in tendencie to, and in consideration of the relative state of marriage, which my conscience commands me to prefer

fer before any advantage, respect or honour of mine own individual particular; and have not refused, but rather by all fair means, and too mean condescensions have courted an Accommodation and Agreement; what Injustice is it upon Injustice, Oppression upon Cruelty, refined Malice like Salt upon Salt, to pierce and exasperate that bosom which is full of so much indulgence to, and dalliance with their worst of injuries, in expectation that time would give them to see their mischievous error?

But neither Time nor Truth itself will reclaim them, without Angels appear to confirm them in it. And I do in some part not blame them for it: for the excess and lofty structure of their hopes hath so dazled their looks downwards, that they can see
no-





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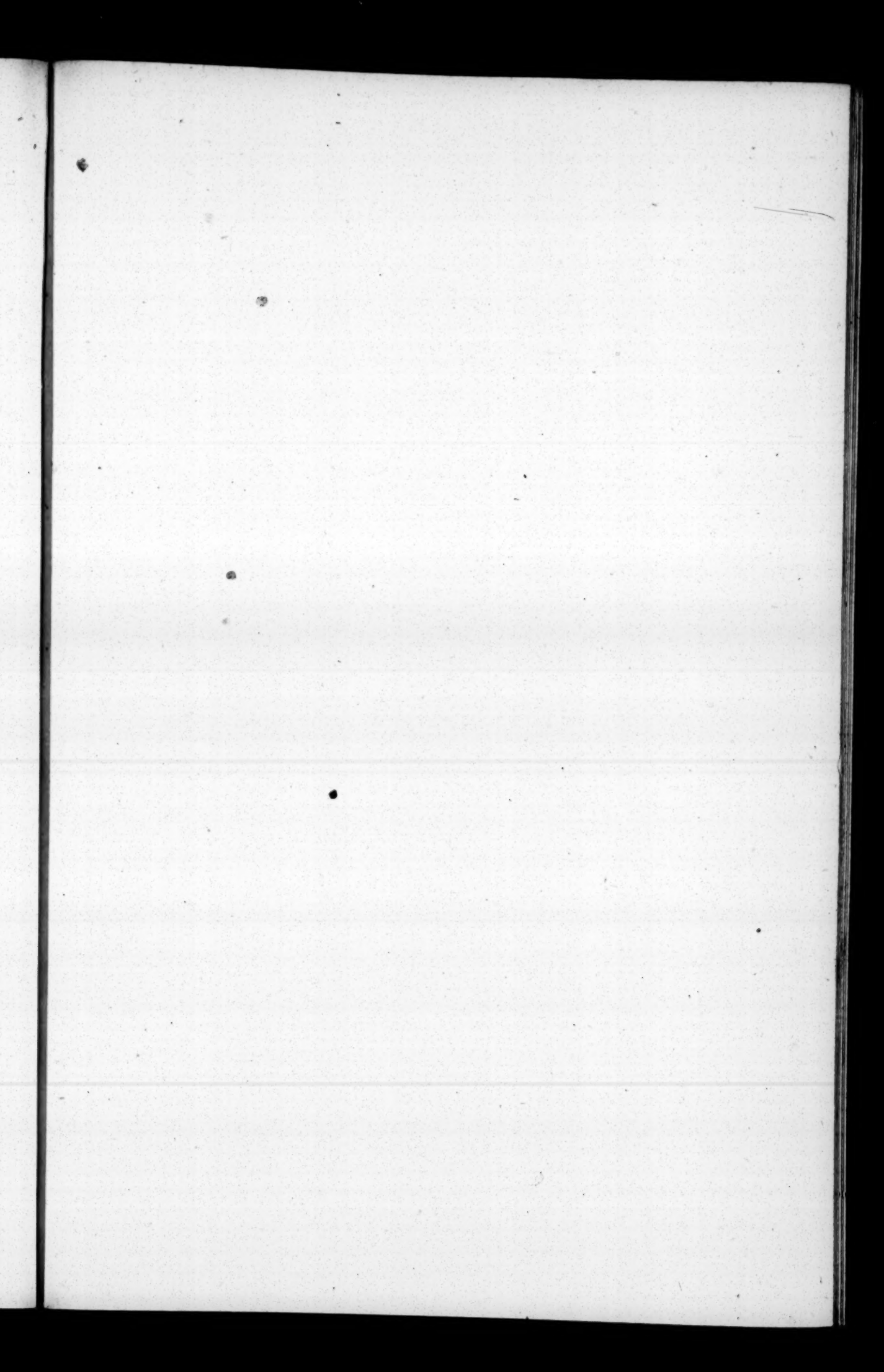
nothing aright, nor in any true proportion or colour. Their dejection and fall from the pinnacle of their ambition, hath quite stunn'd them, that they will hardly recover the dizzie mistake that lies between a *Princess* and a *Prentice*.

They are angry their golden Mountains have travelled and been in labour with a Mousse, and that they cannot finger any of my Estate; and very importunate they are for me to declare it; and this they say is the onely argument to prove me no Cheat, and *I* say and believe it is the onely argument to prove me a fool; and with that, of all other their slanders and durtiness, they shall never abuse me.

But may not *I* with a great deal more reason enquire for, and demand my Joynture and Dowry?

Dowry ? and those Mannors, Leases, Parks, Houses, and the like Rhapsodies and Fictions of an Estate, meer castles in the Air; and as one merrily since told me, he believed they were Birds Nests ? It is sure a greater imputation and shame to them to be found such Cheats and Lyars, then it can be the least blur to me, who never avowed any such thing, nor boasted of my Quality and Fortune.

As to the Letters they intercepted of mine from my Steward, I wonder they do not produce them: but they are ashamed of their most ridiculous simplicity therein. I knew very well the uncertainty of my condition here; and therefore the Letters were meerly Cyphers, and under those terms of Moneys, &c. an account was given me of another
affair



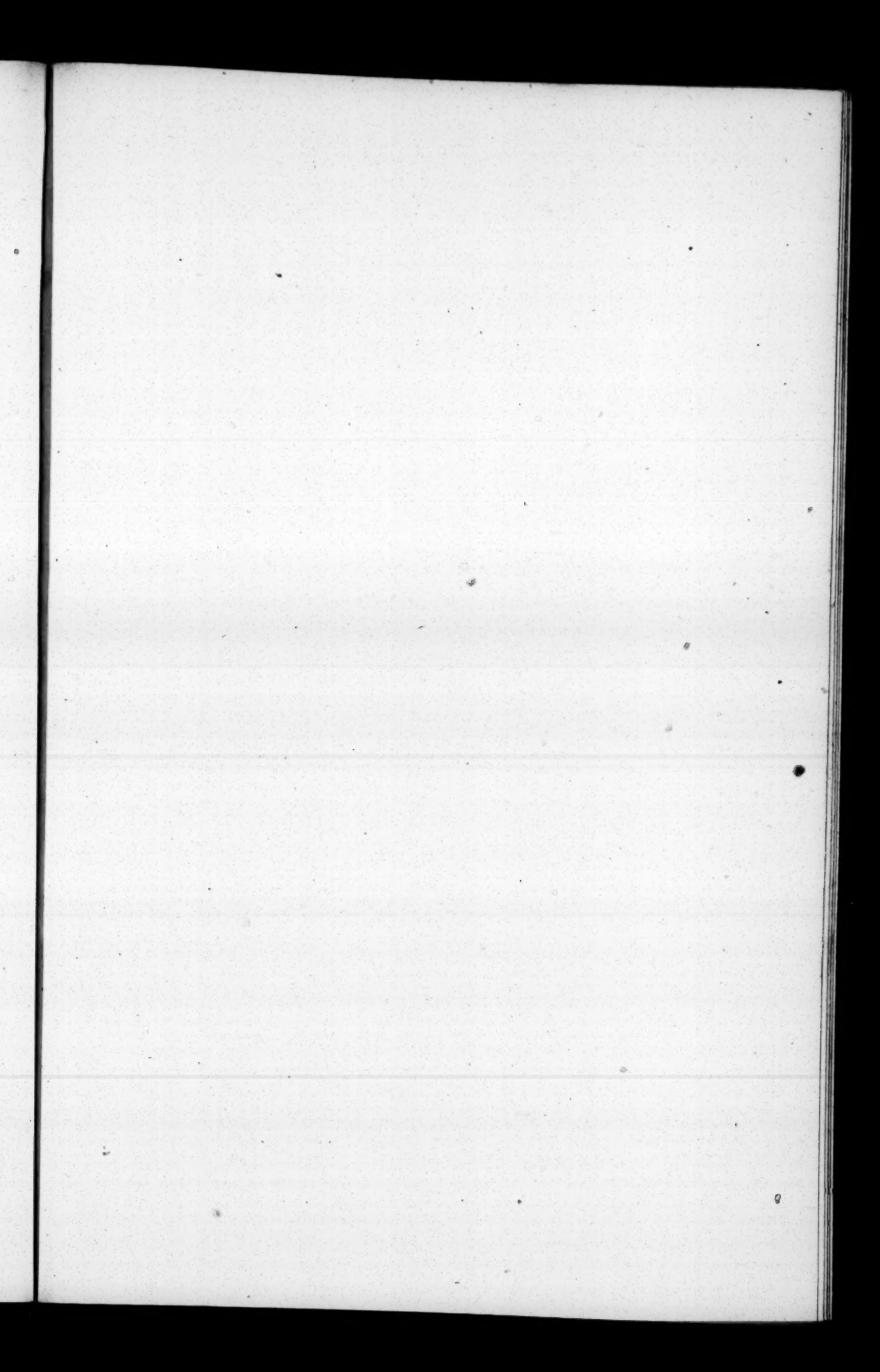
Madam Mary Carleton. 137

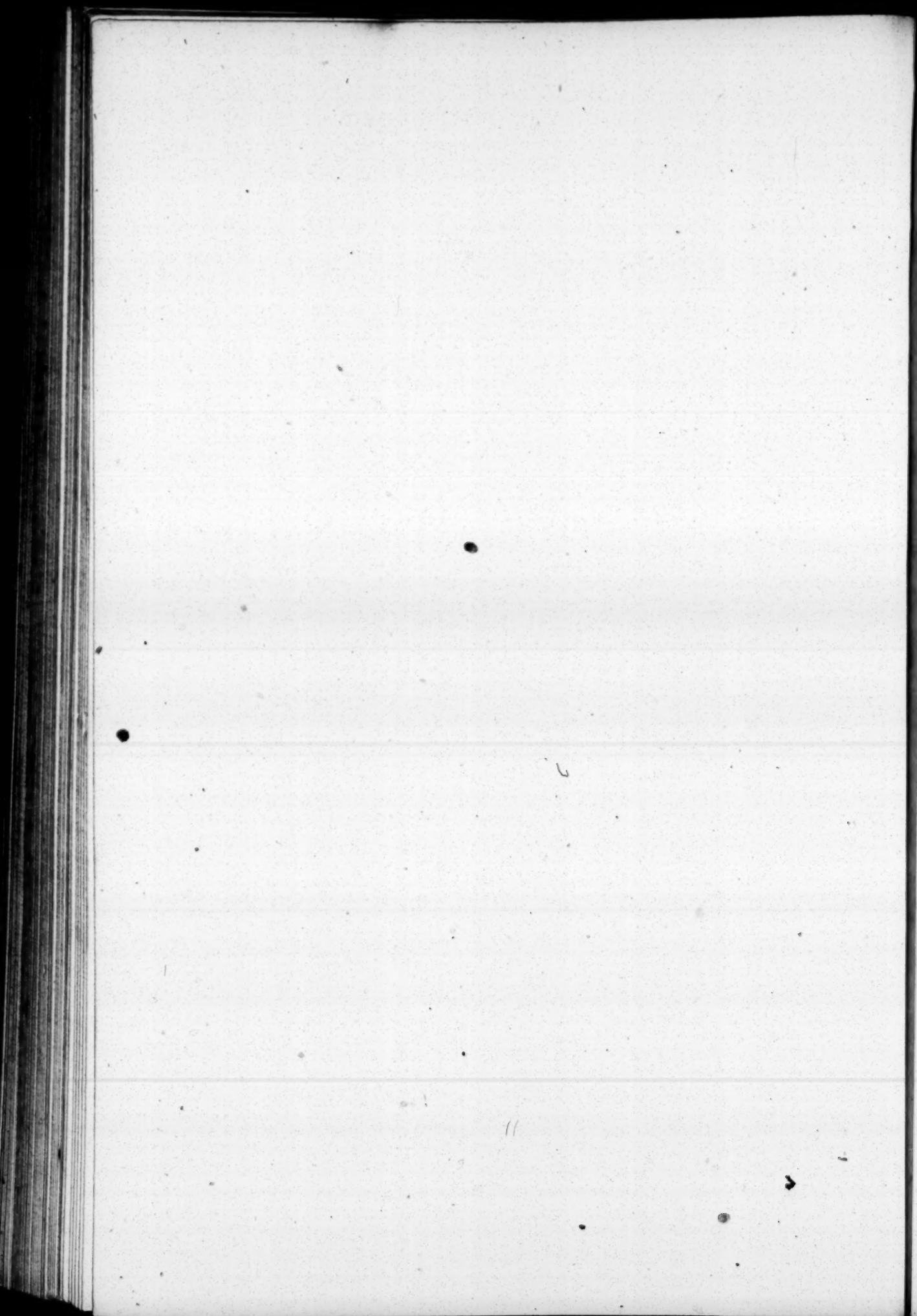
affair at home : the distaste
whereof made me comply with,
and so soon yeild to those importu-
nate and love-sick solicitati-
ons of my Lord.

But what will they be the bet-
ter for a Rent-roll, or particulars
of an estate in *Germany*, the Te-
nure and Customes of whose
propriety and nature of claime
if they did know, yet could they
not tell how to make their Title
to it ? I could easily name places,
and discover my own Hcredita-
ments perhaps without danger,
and they never the wiser : nor
will the impartial Reader be bet-
ter satisfied. But if my sister *King*,
or any of my kinsfolk long for
some *Baccharach* grapes, I send
to my Steward for them, and he
will convey them from mine
own vineyard as soon as they are
ripe ;

ripe ; and I can furnish her husband with *Westphalia* Hams , which run in my woods gratis. All those fine things I have store of: and when Mr. *Carlton* pleases to make it a surer match, and be married the third time, all things shall be done in ample manner : I will make a resignation of my whole estate, and have nothing settled in lieu of it, but a necessitous despised condition of life, and be taught to sing *Fortune my foe* to the pleasant new tune, or eccho of a *Cheat*.

But I trust Providence will better govern me, and put me upon no necessity of abandoning good and just resolutions I have made to my self, whether in case of separation or re-union, which I shall not over-fondly press, or
urge





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urge from them who love not me
but mine, and require signes and
wonders, and love to be no less
then Principalities.

F I N I S.

Read Oct. 1738